

Eye on the World

April 25, 2020

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 25, 2020.

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).



A letter to the editor by Marjorie Strohsail titled "Let's Put a Candle in the Window to Honor Medical Professionals and First Responders" was posted at tapinto.net on March 31, 2020. Following is the letter.

Yesterday, I spoke with dear friends in Liverpool, England, Nora and Jed Addy. Their community in Woolton Woods started a special custom during this coronavirus pandemic—putting a lighted candle in their front window each evening from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm to show their thanks and support of the police/ambulance/fire first responders, ER, doctors, nurses and hospital personnel.

This is a fine gesture and one we could do as a community. We could add to this list—those providing a service to us. Let us especially include our thoughts and prayers for patients suffering, and those who experienced loss in the wake of this pandemic.

The candle could be set out from dusk to 9:00 pm. My last suggestion is to use a battery-operated candle for safety reasons.



An article by Fionna Harvey titled "Coronavirus Pandemic 'Will Cause Famine of Biblical Proportions' " was posted at theguardian.com on April 21, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

The world is facing widespread famine “of biblical proportions” because of the coronavirus pandemic, the chief of the UN’s food relief agency has warned, with a short time to act before hundreds of millions starve.

More than 30 countries in the developing world could experience widespread famine, and in 10 of those countries there are already more than 1 million people on the brink of starvation, said David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Program.

“We are not talking about people going to bed hungry,” he told *the Guardian* in an interview. “We are talking about extreme conditions, emergency status—people literally marching to the brink of starvation. If we don’t get food to people, people will die.”

Covid-19 is likely to be sweeping through the developing world but its spread is hard to gauge. What appears to be certain is that the fragile healthcare systems of scores of developing countries will be unable to cope, and the economic disaster following in the wake of the pandemic will lead to huge strain on resources.

“This is truly more than just a pandemic—it is creating a hunger pandemic,” said Beasley. “This is a humanitarian and food catastrophe.”

Beasley took his message to the UN security council on Tuesday, warning world leaders that they must act quickly in a fast-deteriorating situation. He urged them to bring forward about \$2 billion (£1.6 billion) of aid that has been pledged, so it can get to the frontline as quickly as possible.

Another \$350 million (£285 million) is also needed to set up the logistics network to get food and medical supplies—including personal protective equipment—to where it is needed, including air bridges where ground transport is impossible.

The Covid-19 pandemic, which no one could have foreseen, has “taken us to uncharted territory,” he said. “Now, my goodness, this is a perfect storm. We are looking at widespread famines of biblical proportions.”

According to a report produced by the UN and other organizations on Thursday, at least 265 million people are being pushed to the brink of starvation by the Covid-19 crisis, double the number under threat before the pandemic.

Beasley also warned that staving off the threat of famine would take months, so assistance would be needed well beyond the initial response. “Our grave concern is that we could begin to put Covid-19 behind us [in developed countries] in three or four months, and then the money runs out,” he said. “And if the money runs out people will die.”

Last year, the World Food Programme assisted about 100 million people in desperation, with a budget of about \$7.5 billion (£6 billion). “I could easily see that need [for budget] doubling,” said Beasley.

Money alone will not be enough, he added. It is difficult for relief workers to get through lockdowns around the world and set up air bridges when transport is paralyzed. “We need money and access—not one or the other, both.”

Also crucial is ensuring that supply chains stay open in the face of lockdowns and the difficulty of getting workers into the fields to tend crops if they are sick or unable to travel easily. "If the supply chain breaks down, people can't get food—and if they can't get food for long enough, they will die," said Beasley.

"We are in this together. We can stop this becoming a widespread famine. But we need to act quickly and smartly."



An article by Aniruddha Ghosal titled "India Plans Wristband Patient Surveillance As Lockdown Eases" was posted at abcnews.com on April 22, 2020. Following is the article.

India said Wednesday that it plans to manufacture thousands of wristbands that will monitor the locations and temperatures of coronavirus patients and help perform contact tracing.

The wristband project aims to track quarantined patients and aid health workers and those delivering essential services. India is ramping up surveillance as it begins to ease one of the world's strictest virus lockdowns.

It has 19,984 confirmed cases of coronavirus, including 640 deaths, and experts fear the epidemic's peak could still be weeks away. Thousands of wristbands are expected to be deployed, but an exact figure has not been released.

The wristbands mirror a similar program in Hong Kong, where authorities used bands to monitor overseas travelers ordered to self-isolate.

Broadcast Engineering Consultants India, a government-owned company, will present wristband designs to hospitals and state governments next week and work with Indian start-ups to manufacture them.

George Kuruvilla, the company's chairman, said the wristbands are likely to be rolled out in May.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged the country's 1.3 billion people to download a government contact-tracing app called Arogya Setu to help determine their infection risk. It has been downloaded over 50 million times since it was launched on April 2.

Kuruvilla said the wristbands could integrate data captured in the app.

He said the wristbands will be used to monitor the movements of quarantined patients, both at home and at hospitals, and any spikes in their body temperature. They will send an alert to public health officials if patients move outside their quarantine zone. The devices will also have an emergency button that wearers can use to call for help.

The wristband will let health workers know if people they encounter have been to high-risk areas or have been in contact with an infected person, while aiding those delivering essential services such as groceries or medicines.

It will capture all the places an infected person has visited, the routes they took, determine if they had any foreign travel and identify those who were in their vicinity. It will also tell people if a sick person is nearby.

It will also help in creating a geofence, or a virtual perimeter, around areas being monitored, such as common meeting places, public transit or places for religious gatherings. A person leaving or entering the virtual perimeter could be alerted through the wristband.

The monitoring has raised privacy concerns.

Dr. Anant Bhan, a public health and bioethics expert, said it is “important to factor in privacy protections and data protections” for both apps and wristbands.

“It is also important to ensure that where possible, consent is sought for the use of location tracking and sharing. Such initiatives could be useful for public health and surveillance purposes, but should not be used to stigmatize individuals or communities,” he said.



Looking back to 2018, an article by Pavan Kulkarni titled “Under the Cover of Philanthropy: A Monopoly Machine at Work” was posted at grain.org on March 23, 2018. Following is the article.

The possibility of a handful corporations monopolizing healthcare and agriculture in the developing world is a very real risk today.

Closely associated with these corporations, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)—the richest and the most powerful philanthropic foundation shaping these sectors globally—aids them in the process of monopolization by granting huge funds to its network of NGOs to carry out activities which mainly benefit these selected corporations, in many of which the foundation has considerable financial stakes.

Apart from making such grants, through the vehicle of Public Private Partnerships (PPP), the foundation also has been facilitating the flow of millions of dollars of taxpayer money into what are essentially private projects.

The foundation also plays a crucial role in lobbying for stronger IPR regimes which oblige developing countries to grant long patent periods for drugs which are only minor alterations of already existing, off-patent drugs.

In Africa, this foundation is one of the most powerful forces that is arm-twisting governments to gradually rewrite seed laws to provide patent protection for commercial seeds, which would eventually require criminalization of all non-certified seeds.

The modus operandi of monopolizing the vaccine market

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), a Public-Private partnership (PPP) founded in 2000 after an initial pledge of \$750 million by the BMGF, is today the most prominent force shaping the vaccine market in the Global south.

Millions of dollars, not only of private philanthropic grants but also public money, have been transferred through this PPP to some of the largest corporations associated with the foundation.

- The extent of public money flowing through this PPP is evident in the fact that 80% of GAVI's finances are paid by donor states.
- Only the remaining 20% are coughed up by private donors—mostly the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation which holds a permanent seat on the board of the alliance, along with UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank.
- Two seats on the board are reserved for representatives from the vaccine-manufacturing corporations, the remaining being held for limited time periods by independent individuals and representatives from governments and civil society organizations.

One of means through which GAVI finances distribution of pneumococcal vaccines is called Advance Market Commitment (AMC)—a system through which the UNICEF calls upon manufacturers for “a 10-year commitment to supply a share of the target demand of 200 million doses annually at a price no higher than \$ 3.50 per dose.”

This mechanism allows AMC-registered producers whose applications are approved to secure a market in developing countries for 10 years, with no threat of competition.

Countries whose average Gross National Income (GNI) per capita over the last three years is \$1580 or less are eligible to apply for financial assistance from GAVI. This allows the countries to procure specified number of vaccinations by paying a fraction of this price of \$3.50 per dose, the remaining being paid by GAVI.

When the per capita GNI of a country receiving GAVI's support for routine vaccines rises over this eligibility threshold, it enters “the accelerated transition phase” in which financial support from GAVI is phased out over a period of 5 years, following which the government of that country is obliged to purchase the remaining number of doses specified in “Secretariat's decision letter,” at the full price of \$3.50 per dose.

Any country failing to comply with this obligation will be deemed a defaulter, which carries with it certain penalties, which may include not only the suspension of support for the relevant vaccine but also of other services on which the country may have developed a dependency on GAVI.

“To come out of default, a country is required to fulfill the co-financing requirement of the current year together with the first tranche of arrears payments relating to the previous year as agreed in the payment plan,” GAVI's co-financing policy document (Version 2.0) states.

For the first years after AMC became functional, double the agreed price of \$3.50 per dose was offered by GAVI to the manufacturers “to tempt companies in,” Guardian reported. And the names of the companies thus tempted is no surprise.

“Two of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in the world—GSK and Pfizer—won contracts to supply 30 million doses a year for 10 years. They were guaranteed \$225 million each from the AMC, in addition to the \$3.50 Gavi pays, which works out to a total price of \$7 a dose for the first two years.”

The conflict of interest arising from the foundation’s close relation with GSK is explained in a previous article. Even in Pfizer, according to a report, the foundation’s trust had investments as on 2014. In 2015, Pfizer’s senior vice-president, Emilio Emini was appointed as the director of BMGF’s HIV for the Global Health program.

This choice to subsidize some of the world’s biggest pharmaceutical companies associated with the foundation, rather than using the money to help generic companies in India, China and Brazil that produce pharmaceutical products at a much cheaper price, has repeatedly come under criticism by MSF and Oxfam.

Far from aiding the production of cheap drugs by generic pharma through means such as technology transfers, the corporate giants, including Bill Gates’ Microsoft, “lobbied vociferously” for acceptance of TRIPS agreement, which obliged member countries to agree to grant patents to pharmaceutical companies for a minimum period of 20 years.

Microsoft again lobbied the G8 in 2007 to strengthen the protection of global Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), which, Oxfam warned, is bound to “worsen the health crisis in developing countries,” the New Internationalist reported.

Stifling the development of generic pharma by lobbying for stronger Intellectual Property Rights regime (which, contrary to incentivizing innovation as is widely claimed, has the opposite effect as demonstrated by many empirical studies including one by U.S government); facilitating a flow of enormous subsidies into private projects of closely associated pharmaceutical companies, not only by making philanthropic grants but also by channelizing through GAVI alliance the public money granted by various states; and protecting selected corporations from potential competition in the market by locking countries receiving assistance through this program into long-term commitments to buy vaccinations they manufacture—all appear to be a multi-pronged strategy to monopolize the global healthcare industry.

And being “the single most influential voice in global health,” Bill Gates is more than well-qualified to be at the helm of this machine.

Scramble for Africa, again—recolonization of agriculture

Activities of the foundation in agriculture—the other key sector being shaped by the foundation—also appears to be geared towards the same end of monopolization.

In March 2015, some of the largest players in global agribusiness, the UK government’s Department for International Development (DFID) and the World

Bank met in a secretive conference co-organized by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and the USAID—“two of the main driving forces behind the adoption of commercial, patented seeds among poor farmers in Africa.”

The aim of this conference, to which not a single farmer’s organization was invited, was to discuss a report on “developing the commercial seed sector in sub-Saharan Africa.”

Food-sovereignty researcher, Ian Fitzpatrick, wrote that this report “recommends that in countries where demand for patented seeds is weaker (i.e. where farmers are using their own seed saving networks), public-private partnerships should be developed so that private companies are protected from ‘investment risk’.

“It also recommends that NGOs and aid donors should encourage governments to introduce intellectual property rights for seed breeders and help to persuade farmers to buy commercial, patented seeds rather than relying on their own traditional varieties.”

Lobbying for IPR for seeds is carried out through a network of non-profit organizations, one of which is African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF).

As on 2016, AATF had received almost \$118 million in grants from the Gates foundation, apart from the grants its receives from other bodies including DFID and USAID.

This organization, by its own admission, “ensures that intellectual property management is addressed,” apart from monitoring “press and public opinion” and “providing product-specific information that addresses concerns regarding issues such as genetic engineering or intellectual property protection.”

AATF has also taken upon itself to, “assess the relevant national IPR regimes to ensure that any benefit sharing agreements can be enforced.”

Founded in 2006 with grants from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller foundation, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is another key organization pushing patented seeds in the region.

This organization, which the Gates foundation has called the “African face and voice of our work,” has been lobbying African governments to introduce IPR for seeds in multiple ways, including drafting revisions to national seed policy of Ghana and submitting it to the government—a move that has evoked fierce resistance from Ghana Food Sovereignty Network.

In Tanzania, AGRA’s Seed Policy Action Node has “reviewed national seed policies and presented a study on the demand for certified seeds.” This year alone, AGRA has received \$200 million in grants from BMGF.

By allowing the introduction of commercial seed systems, Global Justice Now warned in one of its report, Africa runs the risk of “enabling a few large companies to control seed research and development, production and distribution.”

An IPR system incorporating commercial seeds in Africa requires, “a fundamental restructuring of seed laws to allow for certification systems that not only protect certified varieties and royalties derived from them, but which actually criminalise all non-certified seed.”

Lobbying for IPR is not the only way by which AGRA serves the interests of some of the largest agribusiness corporations. It also supports a network of agro-dealers, which act as a conduit through which Monsanto (now attempting to merge with German chemical company Bayer) sells all its seeds and herbicides in the region, as admitted by the company’s country manager in Malawi.

In order to get the promised yields from the hybrid seeds circulated in Africa through AGRA, the farmers need to buy the required quantities of chemical inputs. 67% of all these inputs sold by agro-dealer networks supported by AGRA are that of Monsanto.

In the three years between 2007 and 2010, these agro-dealer networks sold 10,908 tons of seeds and 18,071 tons of fertilizers, achieving an 85% increase in sales, according an evaluation report perused by Global Justice Now.

Monsanto, which benefited the most from these sales, is a company in which the foundation bought 500,000 shares worth \$23 million in 2010. Though the foundation has reportedly sold its Monsanto shares in the end of 2011, it was revealed by Warren Buffett last year that his Berkshire Hathaway—in which foundation’s trust holds almost 60 million shares—has acquired over 8 million Monsanto shares, worth \$846 million.

The overlapping of interests between the foundation and Monsanto is not limited to the foundation’s financial stake in corporation, but extends to common personnel’s is the case with GSK in the world of pharma.

Rob Horsch, who was previously the “the leader of International Development Partnerships at Monsanto,” has been appointed the Deputy Director of Agricultural Research and Development team at the Gates foundation since 2006.

Sam Dryden, who before working at Monsanto was associated with Union Carbide and Dow Agro Sciences, was appointed as the Director of Agricultural Development at the Gates foundation.

This appointment came “soon after his pro-biotech speech in October 2009,” in which he was advocated “American-style, patent-wielding, chemical-biotech-based behemoths such as Monsanto with their “quick-fix solutions” as the salvation for Africa’s agriculture.

This advice, if taken, the critics warned, would profit shareholders in Monsanto and similar corporations, at the cost of making poor farmers dependent on them for inputs, reported a Guardian article which referred to Dryden as “possibly the most powerful figure in world agriculture today.”

The purpose of laboring this point that BMGF is one of the vital agents facilitating the ongoing process of monopolization of the global healthcare and

agriculture is not necessarily to deny any positive impacts the foundations' interventions may have had.

It is instead to warn that the long-term costs of allowing a handful of corporations to take over healthcare and agriculture in developing countries, in exchange for vaccinations and hybrid seeds sold at discounted prices, is likely to be a forbidding one—one that the populations of the Global South will be suffered to pay once the process of monopolization is complete.



An article by Jennifer Calfas titled "Bill Gates Says He'll Spend Billions on Coronavirus Vaccine Development" was posted at marketwatch.com on April 6, 2020. Following is the article.

Microsoft Corp. MSFT, -1.21% co-founder Bill Gates said his foundation will spend billions of dollars to fund the construction of factories for the most promising efforts to develop a vaccine to combat the novel coronavirus.

Mr. Gates, a billionaire philanthropist who is one the richest people in the world, said the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will work with seven makers of a possible vaccine to build these factories.

Mr. Gates, who announced the efforts in an appearance on "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" Thursday, acknowledged that billions of dollars would be wasted on vaccines that won't pan out.

"Our early money can accelerate things," Mr. Gates said. "Even though we'll end up picking at most two of them, we're going to fund factories for all seven, just so that we don't waste time in serially saying which vaccine works and then building the factory."

A representative for the Gates foundation didn't respond immediately to a request for comment.

In March, the foundation announced a \$125 million effort to identify and develop treatments for Covid-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

(An expanded version of this story appears on wsj.com.)



An article by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. titled "Bill Gates' Vaccine Agenda a Win-Win for Big Pharma, Mandatory Vaccination" was posted at yournews.com on April 10, 2020. Following is the article.

Vaccines, for Bill Gates, are a strategic philanthropy that feed his many vaccine-related businesses (including Microsoft's ambition to control a global vaccination ID enterprise) and give him dictatorial control of global health policy.

Gates' obsession with vaccines seems to be fueled by a conviction to save the world with technology.

Promising his share of \$450 million of \$1.2 billion to eradicate Polio, Gates took control of India's National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) which mandated up to 50 doses of polio vaccines through overlapping immunization programs to children before the age of five.

Indian doctors blame the Gates campaign for a devastating non-polio acute flaccid paralysis (NPAFP) epidemic that paralyzed 490,000 children beyond expected rates between 2000 and 2017.

In 2017, the Indian government dialed back Gates' vaccine regimen and asked Gates and his vaccine policies to leave India. NPAFP rates dropped precipitously.

In 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) reluctantly admitted that the global explosion in polio is predominantly vaccine strain. The most frightening epidemics in Congo, Afghanistan, and the Philippines, are all linked to vaccines. In fact, by 2018, 70% of global polio cases were vaccine strain.

In 2014, the Gates Foundation funded tests of experimental HPV vaccines, developed by Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK) and Merck, on 23,000 young girls in remote Indian provinces.

Approximately 1,200 suffered severe side effects, including auto immune and fertility disorders. Seven died. Indian government investigations charged that Gates-funded researchers committed pervasive ethical violations: pressuring vulnerable village girls into the trial, bullying parents, forging consent forms, and refusing medical care to the injured girls. The case is now in the country's Supreme Court.

In 2010, the Gates Foundation funded a phase 3 trial of GSK's experimental malaria vaccine, killing 151 African infants and causing serious adverse effects including paralysis, seizure, and febrile convulsions to 1,048 of the 5,949 children.

During Gates' 2002 MenAfriVac campaign in Sub-Saharan Africa, Gates' operatives forcibly vaccinated thousands of African children against meningitis. Approximately 50 of the 500 children vaccinated developed paralysis.

South African newspapers complained, "We are guinea pigs for the drug makers."

Nelson Mandela's former Senior Economist, Professor Patrick Bond, describes Gates' philanthropic practices as "ruthless and immoral."

In 2010, Gates committed \$10 billion to the WHO saying, "We must make this the decade of vaccines." A month later, Gates said in a Ted Talk that new vaccines "could reduce population."

In 2014, Kenya's Catholic Doctors Association accused the WHO of chemically sterilizing millions of unwilling Kenyan women with a "tetanus" vaccine campaign. Independent labs found a sterility formula in every vaccine tested.

After denying the charges, WHO finally admitted it had been developing the sterility vaccines for over a decade. Similar accusations came from Tanzania, Nicaragua, Mexico, and the Philippines.

A 2017 study (Morgenson et. al. 2017) showed that WHO's popular DTP vaccine is killing more African children than the diseases it prevents. DTP-vaccinated girls suffered 10x the death rate of children who had not yet received the vaccine. WHO has refused to recall the lethal vaccine which it forces upon tens of millions of African children annually.

Global public health advocates around the world accuse Gates of steering WHO's agenda away from the projects that are proven to curb infectious diseases: clean water, hygiene, nutrition, and economic development.

The Gates Foundation only spends about \$650 million of its \$5 billion dollar budget on these areas. They say he has diverted agency resources to serve his personal philosophy that good health only comes in a syringe.

In addition to using his philanthropy to control WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, and PATH, Gates funds a private pharmaceutical company that manufactures vaccines, and additionally is donating \$50 million to 12 pharmaceutical companies to speed up development of a coronavirus vaccine.

In his recent media appearances, Gates appears confident that the Covid-19 crisis will now give him the opportunity to force his dictatorial vaccine programs on American children.



"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.

■ An article by Sophia Yan titled "China Adds Nearly 1,300 Coronavirus Deaths to Official Wuhan Toll, Blaming Reporting Delays" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on April 16, 2020.

■ An article by Rory Sullivan titled "Global Concert Raises More Than \$127 Million for WHO Emergency Response Fund" was posted at cnn.com on April 19, 2020.

■ An article by Jackie Salo titled "Global Citizen Concert Criticized for Helping Raise Money for WHO" was posted at nypost.com on April 19, 2020.

■ An article by Amir Havasi titled "Tehran Cautiously Reopens As Economic Hardship Trumps Virus Risk" was posted at afp.com on April 18, 2020.

- A Reuters article by John Morris titled “Gunman Kills at Least 16 in Nova Scotia in Canada’s Worst Mass Shooting” was posted at reuters.com on April 19, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Mexican President Tells Gangs to Stop Donating Food, End Crime Instead” was posted at reuters.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Kalila Sangster titled “Coronavirus: 10 Million Hand Sanitizer Bottles Heading to [UK] Landfill” was posted at yahoo.com on April 21, 2020.
- An article by Kelvin Chan, Beatrice Dupuy and Arijeta Lajka titled “Conspiracy Theorists Burn 5G Towers [50 Cell Towers in Britain This Month] Claiming Link to Virus” was posted at apnews.com on April 21, 2020.



An article by John Stossel titled “Government Goes Too Far” was posted at townhall.com on April 22, 2020. Following is the article.

I’m “social distancing.” I stay away from people.

I do it voluntarily.

There’s a big difference between voluntary—and force.

Government is force. The media want more of that.

“Ten states have no stay-at-home orders!” complains Don Lemon On CNN. “Some governors are still refusing to take action!”

Fox News’ host Steve Hilton agreed. “Shut things down! Everywhere. That includes Utah, Wyoming . . .”

But wait a second. People in Utah and Wyoming already socially distanced just by living there. Why must Utah and Wyoming have the same stay-at-home rules as New York?

I find it creepy how eager some people are for authorities to boss us around.

That’s the topic of my new video.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, people gathered to protest a “stay-at-home” order. The police arrested a protester and tweeted, “Protesting is a non-essential activity.”

I bet they got a chuckle out of that. But our Constitution guarantees Americans the right to “peaceably assemble” and “petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

The coronavirus doesn’t override the Constitution.

Protests also erupted in Michigan, where Gov. Gretchen Whitmer imposed some absurd rules. She declared, “All public or private gatherings of any size

are prohibited.” Her executive order stopped people from seeing relatives and banned anyone with more than one home to travel between them.

Big-box stores are allowed to stay open, but they must not sell things like carpet, flooring, furniture, garden supplies, paint, etc. So, Walmart stores are open, but some of their shelves have tape blocking certain products.

That’s just dumb.

Gardening and painting can be done far away from other people.

So can exercise. But in California, police chased down and arrested a paddle boarder paddling in the ocean. He was far more than 6 feet away from anyone.

In Encinitas, California, police fined people \$1,000 just for sitting in cars to watch the sunset at the beach. Yes, inside their cars. The police said, “We want compliance from everybody (because of) lives that we’re trying to save.”

But it’s not clear that demanding total compliance is the best way to save lives.

Sweden took a near-opposite approach.

Yes, they encouraged older people to stay inside and sick people to stay home. They didn’t want hospitals overwhelmed. But otherwise, Sweden is carrying on almost as normal.

“Closing schools, stringent measures like that, closing borders, you cannot do that for months or years,” said epidemiologist Anders Tegnell of the Swedish Health Agency. “What we are doing in Sweden we can continue doing for a very long time. I think that’s going to prove to be very important in the long run.”

The long run matters most.

Since a vaccine is probably at least a year away, the Swedes reason that the best protection is what epidemiologists call “herd immunity,” a critical mass of people who get the disease and then are resistant to it.

The hope is that once enough people get coronavirus, there will be enough immunity to prevent mass outbreaks later. Many of the most vulnerable may then be able to avoid ever getting the virus.

The jury is still out on this experiment. More than 1,500 Swedes have died, five times the death rate of neighboring Norway. But if Swedes acquire “herd immunity,” their death rate will be the first to drop.

Other European countries agree that lockdowns are not sustainable.

Last week, Denmark reopened nursery and elementary schools. Germany opened retail stores this week. Norway opens schools next week. Austria reopens shops to people who wear masks on May 1.

That seems smarter than the “absolute shutdown” promoted by so many American authorities. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has threatened to “shut off water and power” to homes of people who do not shelter in place.

Shut off water and power?

Politicians rush to limit our choices in the name of “keeping us safe.” They don’t even want to think about places like Sweden or the argument that leaving us alone might make us safer.

They just like pushing people around.



An article titled “Feds Classifying All Coronavirus Patient Deaths As ‘COVID-19’ Deaths, Regardless of Cause” was posted at [nypost.com](https://www.nypost.com) on April 7, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

The federal government is classifying the deaths of patients infected with the coronavirus as COVID-19 deaths, regardless of any underlying health issues that could have contributed to the loss of someone’s life.

Dr. Deborah Birx, the response coordinator for the White House coronavirus task force, said the federal government is continuing to count the suspected COVID-19 deaths, despite other nations doing the opposite.

“There are other countries that if you had a pre-existing condition, and let’s say the virus caused you to go to the ICU [intensive care unit] and then have a heart or kidney problem,” she said during a Tuesday news briefing at the White House. “Some countries are recording that as a heart issue or a kidney issue and not a COVID-19 death.”



An article by Scott Morefield titled “COVID-Shamers And Seven of Their Most Ridiculous Arguments” was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on April 13, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Have you ever been COVID-shamed online? Maybe you posted pictures of you and your family at a park and got reamed by someone for not being at home. Maybe, heaven forbid, you even dared to express a view on social media that strays from the ‘accepted opinion’ of months of mandated quarantine and government-enforced shutdowns until not a single solitary individual is infected with the virus.

If the wrong people get wind you’ve expressed such an opinion, you’ll reap the whirlwind, I can promise you that.

I've been there and done that. Fortunately, however, my work in conservative and right-of-center media gives me some pretty thick skin that makes me virtually immune to criticism.

I simply don't give a flying flip what anyone, especially the left, thinks about opinions I sincerely believe reasonable evidence suggests are correct. And that's a good thing for you, because I'm about to tell you how to shake off their COVID-shaming stupidity like water off a duck's back.

Indeed, COVID-shaming is the latest way leftists try and fool the general public into mistakenly thinking they are somehow "good people." It's a win-win for them because they can pretend they actually care about human life and, via these ridiculous shutdowns, accomplish all their goals, all in one fell swoop. It's almost admirable, actually, for its level of evil genius. When it comes to never letting crises go to waste, why kill one bird when you can kill two?

From the safety of their beltway townhouses, leftists point their judgmental fingers at anyone who isn't meeting their definition of "social distancing" or who, worse, expresses any opinion about the ongoing Wuhan coronavirus pandemic that they disagree with.

And trust me, they'll 'disagree with' pretty much any opinion that doesn't involve them getting to stay cloistered away in their homes, presumably living off what they believe will be the government teat for the next, oh, 18 months or so, give or take a few days.

The COVID-shamers can get quite emotional. By pretending to care about the "lives" we're supposedly saving with these state-enforced shutdowns and criticizing anyone with a different take as somehow morally inferior, leftists have found endless opportunities to preen and virtue-signal. However, as is normal with the left, there is no substance behind their bloviating.

Here are several of their most ridiculous retorts, and how to counter them:

■ "You want grandma to die."

Some version of this theme is endlessly parroted by the death-obsessed COVID-shamers, as if any return to normal economic activity means an automatic death sentence for those most vulnerable to the virus.

Of course, the first response is that none of us want "grandma" or anyone else to die of coronavirus.

Second, the vast majority of "grandmas," unless they have certain preexisting medical conditions, will recover just fine even if they catch it.

The question is, can we reasonably protect "grandma" while at the same time protecting vulnerable Americans who will be irreparably harmed by a looming Second Great Depression?

The answer isn't just "of course," it's also "we must." We're at the risk of losing far more lives in the long run than we ever would have saved with these draconian measures.

■ "You just care about the stock market."

This COVID-shaming technique is geared at a tried-and-true leftist tactic—class-warfare, insinuating that conservatives who want to reopen things simply care about their stock options or their 401Ks and consequently don't care about lives.

First of all, we do care about lives (see above). Second, most working people have some sort of retirement plan, so not wanting those to crash and burn is a normal human reaction.

One CAN care about saving lives AND economics at the same time. It doesn't have to be an either/or situation. Yes, lives come first, but again, there is a point where extreme efforts to 'save' one group of lives will lead to the casting aside of others (see below).

How many people would die long-term in a newly poverty-stricken country? Some of us don't want to find out.

■ "Gazillions will die."

Yeah, this one is super easy. 'Gazillions' will NOT die. Not even close. Dire death projections for this virus have been whittled down to the point where, at present, the toll is likely to be less than a normal flu season.

And many of those early models took social distancing into account already, which means this virus is likely far less deadly than anyone thought at first. But we're still acting like it's the literal end of the world.

Not to be cynical, but might there be other motives at work?

■ "The virus will decide when things return to normal."

Those who parrot this phrase got it from Dr. Fauci and other authority figures, as if the virus somehow has a brain and gets to decide things.

News flash: PEOPLE decide when to stop doing stupid, useless, over-the-top, society-destroying things to try and protect itself from a virus that has a death toll only slightly higher than the seasonal flu.

That's because people, not viruses, have brains. Duh, right? It's amazing that a non-medical expert like me should have to explain this to the likes of Dr. Fauci, but here we are.

■ "You first!"

This one really cracks me up. As if those of us who want a return to normal aren't willing to take the risk of contracting the virus ourselves. That's the point, you pencil-necked twits.

I don't want to contract this virus any more than I would want the flu or a cold. I'll take reasonable precautions, and if I do get it I'll quarantine myself so I don't spread it to others.

But I'm not worried about it and I'm more than willing to take the 'risk' to save countless American lives, far more than this virus would have ever taken if allowed to run rampant.

■ "You don't care about science."

Leftists love 'science,' as long as they think it supports their ridiculous policy proposals. It never does though, and the Wuhan virus is no different, especially since the 'science' has been almost universally wrong since the beginning of this outbreak.

Yes, we should continue to learn more about how the virus is transmitted and the toll it takes on humans. As we have, we should work on vaccines, testing, treatments, and ways to reasonably reduce the spread of this and any other transmittable disease.

Science is a good thing. However in this case math—as in numerators and denominators—can tell us enough to know that what we've done is entirely too much.

■ "If one life is saved, it's all worth it."

This is another commonly used phrase, but it's also one of the most absurd.

If "one life saved" is worth any action, why not stop driving to 'save' the 1.25 million car accident deaths worldwide each year?

Sure, flying is the safest form of transportation statistics-wise, but if we had stopped it in 1970 we'd have 'saved' the 84,000 people who have died in the past 50 years from aviation accidents.

Or how about the 2.3 million who die every year from occupational accidents and work-related diseases?

If those lives 'saved' aren't worth stopping work entirely, I don't know what is. I mean, we'd all exist in soul-crushing poverty and die from starvation or some third-world disease but hey, 'one life,' right?

Of course, life is precious, but when the heavy hand of government takes historic, unprecedented measures to put one victim group over all others, creating additional victim groups in the process, that "one life" saved ultimately comes at the cost of many, many others.

So no, there's absolutely no reason to give one inch of moral high ground to the COVID-shamers. Their motives are suspect, their morals are lacking, and their arguments are, well, just super, super lame.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “United We Fall” was posted at patriot-post.us on April 18 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

I believe it is past time to remove “United” from “United States.” It was Lincoln who said that a nation divided against itself could not stand, and he was right. But whereas he was arguing for the 13 Confederate states to submit to the will of the 20 Union states, I would argue for the independence of all 50 states.

This nation is more divided today than it was in 1861. You merely have to look at the constant calls for President Trump’s impeachment by the members of the House and Senate from 20 states. Or consider how many states want to oppose the federal government by declaring themselves sanctuaries for illegal aliens, providing people who have no legal right to be here with drivers licenses, free schooling, free health care and voting rights.

The point is further driven home by the fact that states that have shown no signs of falling victim to the Chinese virus are being told to take the same job-killing precautions as high-density states like New York and California.

One size doesn’t fit all during an epidemic and one size won’t fit all when the virus eventually subsides.

■ Amicable divorce?

Is there any conceivable reason why when fully half the people in the country loved having Barack Obama in the White House while the other half credit God with replacing him with Donald Trump, the two sides shouldn’t seek an amicable divorce?

■ Not geographically feasible

I used to think it would be nice if states like California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii could form a nation with Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and the states of New England, but, unlike the way it was with the Confederacy, it is not geographically feasible.

■ Europe model—50 sovereign nations

It seems to me that the best, most logical, solution is for us to use Europe as a model. We are roughly the same size. In fact, we are nearly duplicates of each other.

Europe is slightly larger, 10,180,000 square kilometers to our 9,833,000 kms. We have 50 states, they have 44 nations. Their GDP is a combined \$19.9 trillion, ours is \$19.4 trillion. They have more people, 511 million compared to our 325 million.

They have millions of Arabs and Muslims who shouldn’t be there; we have many more millions of illegal Latinos who shouldn’t be here.

■ Trade good—defense bad

What would be the downside if each state was a sovereign nation. We could trade across borders without tariffs. If some foreign power tried to invade, say, Virginia, I have no doubt that red state neighbors North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Kentucky would all join blue state Maryland in coming to her defense.

Of course, in spite of being surrounded by Oregon, Washington and Nevada, if Mexico were to attack California, the Golden State might very well have to go it alone. Nobody really likes California, after all. Besides, considering that the state has declared itself a sanctuary, Governor Newsom would probably just stand by and salute as the Mexican flag rose majestically over El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora de Los Angeles del Rio Porciuncula.

■ 3M denied masks to Florida

Although most major companies have supported the President's efforts to fight the coronavirus, 3M has seen fit to deny the state of Florida the surgical masks it needs because there are nations out-bidding them on the open market. By the time President Trump gets done with these war profiteers, they'll be lucky if they're not the 1M Corporation.

This is one of those cases where when a company is said to be making a killing, it could be a literal truth.

■ Sweden's model

Still, I can't help wishing that for once, we followed Sweden's lead. The government has been telling the people to stay home if they're sick or over the age of 70, but to otherwise get back to work. So far, it's working. In a nation of over 10 million, 308 have died.

■ Risking a full-blown Depression

Pro-rated, that would amount to roughly 10,000 dead Americans. Even though I am in the high risk group, I'd say that is an acceptable number, even if I were to be one of the 10,000 or 20,000 or 30,000, when the alternative is to risk a full-blown Depression.

■ Problems at home

We have already seen an uptick in domestic violence and suicides, and the lockdown hasn't even reached the one month mark.

■ Ignoring less-fashionable flu

Even if we save a few thousand lives, while ignoring the 40,000-50,000 that will die of the less-fashionable flu, it's not worth shutting down schools and businesses, closing churches and putting half of America's work force on the unemployment rolls.

■ Increased smoking

I'm willing to bet that with people being forced to stay home—free of workplace prohibitions against smoking—there's a lot more puffing going on these days. Are we suddenly supposed to stop paying attention to all those tobacco-related deaths we're constantly being hit with, courtesy of the Cancer Society?

■ Adding more troubles to your life

A strange coincidence: The other day I was reading a novel and came across "to pile Pelion on Ossa," an expression I had never heard before. From the context, I understood it meant don't go out of your way to add more troubles to the ones you already bear. That same afternoon, I checked out my daily Wordsmith and came across "In Greek Mythology, the twins Otus and Ephialtes piled Mount Pelion on Mount Ossa and both on Mount Olympus in an attempt to reach heaven and attack the gods."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Blame It on Woodward & Bernstein" was posted at patriotpost.us on April 20, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

If you're older than, say, 60, you will be able to recall a time when many newspapers were considered conservative. Yes, Virginia, there was a period in American history when someone sharing my politics could actually write for or serve on the editorial board of an American daily.

It all changed in the mid-70s when a couple of reporters named Robert Woodward and Carl Bernstein who were working for the *Washington Post* were approached by a bureaucrat who wished to bring down the Nixon administration. Once they were able to convince managing editor Ben Bradlee to let them pursue the story and he was able to convince the paper's owner, Katharine Graham, to publish it, the writing was on the wall.

Almost overnight, Nixon was on the way out. The reporters, on the other hand, had a book, "All the President's Men," on the best seller list and would soon be depicted in an Oscar-winning motion picture. And all they had really done was to basically take direction and dictation from the mysterious snitch they referred to as Deep Throat.

The only downside for either of the hacks was that whereas Woodward was depicted by Hollywood's favorite dreamboat, Robert Redford, Bernstein got stuck with Dustin Hoffman, the shrimp with the enormous shnoz.

I can imagine Bernstein pleading with the studio executives, begging to be portrayed by someone like Paul Newman, Jack Nicholson or Jeff Bridges. "It doesn't have to be a Jew. Really, I'm not all that observant. I even work on the High Holidays. How about James Caan? I hear he's Jewish."

■ Nixon crushed McGovern

The weird thing about the political scandal is that it was so unnecessary. Nixon was destroyed because he had okayed the break-in of the DNC's headquarters at the Watergate and either stonewalled or lied about it.

The unanswered question to this day remains why Nixon's re-election team bothered. He was a sure thing in 1972, as borne out by the fact he defeated George McGovern by 18 million votes and carried the Electoral College 520-17, the worst drubbing since FDR crushed Alf Landon 523-8 in 1936.

It made about as much sense as Ohio State trying to steal Yale's game plans before taking on the Bulldogs or the Road Runner's breaking into Wile E. Coyote's war room to find out what he just ordered from the folks at Acme.

■ Attracted to journalism

But the worst thing that happened wasn't that Nixon, the man who, together with Henry Kissinger, decided to invite China to join the so-called community of nations (and we've all seen how well that's turned out), was driven from office. No, the very worst thing is that thousands and thousands of left-wing college students who would have normally become social workers, psychiatrists or permanent wards of their parents, all decided to become journalists. Thanks to Woodward and Bernstein, journalism had become the mecca for those who couldn't become rock stars because they didn't know how to play electric guitars or sing through their nose.

In the history of the world have there ever been so many hypocrites as presently exist in Washington, D.C., and the Silicon Valley?

■ Congress and the Constitution

In Congress, you have hundreds of legislators calling President Trump a tyrant because they insist he ignores the Constitution. For their part, the only sections of the Constitution they even recognize are the first two Amendments and they'd love to get rid of both of them.

■ Silicon Valley and money

In the Silicon Valley, you have a platoon of nerdy billionaires who keep calling for higher taxes while, at the same time, having accountants on retainer whose only job is to make sure their corporate and personal tax bite is as tiny as humanly possible.

When not evading taxes, they can be counted on to whine as loudly as Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez about income inequality.

■ Jeff Bezos

That's in spite of the fact that Jeff Bezos, who owns Amazon and the *Washington Post*, could serve as the poster boy for income inequality.

The man makes \$8,961,187-an-hour. That's not a typo; he makes nearly nine million dollars an hour. Or to put it another way, \$150,000-a-minute, which translates to \$2,500-a-second.

On the other hand, an Amazon employee making \$15-an-hour would need to work 8-hour days for about 204 years to make what Bezos makes in an hour . . . even an hour when the schmuck is sleeping.

■ Can lockdown end by May 1?

I certainly hope that President Trump is able to call off the lockdown by May 1st, as seems to be his plan. Otherwise, even with the \$2.2 trillion bailout, a lot of the 17 million unemployed Americans are likely to remain that way.

■ Ezekiel Emanuel

I had hoped that once he got done lobbying for Obamacare, we would have heard the last of Rahm Emanuel's creepy brother, Ezekiel.

But, thanks to the coronavirus, he's once again popping up on my TV screen, each time making me wonder if I should be using any of those sanitizers on the glass.

He almost seems to be chortling about the possibility of the lockdown continuing for 18 months until a vaccine is produced and tested. No doubt, once again, visions of death panels are dancing merrily in his skull-like head.

Watching him the other evening, it struck me that if Hollywood ever decides to re-make "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" without the animation, Ezekiel Emanuel would make a perfect Doctor Doom and he could play the part sans makeup.

■ NBC and China

NBC is in business with China, but their news division would have you believe that Donald Trump is the one responsible for the coronavirus deaths in this country, going so far as to insist that the only reason he has promoted the possible curative powers of the anti-malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine, is because he has invested in it, even though they know it's a lie. What we do know is that NBC is always looking to make a profit, whereas the President has spurned his salary, which after three years and three months amounts to a tidy \$1.3 million, choosing to donate it to, among other things, a caregiver program for military veterans, the maintenance of a Civil War site, a program to raise awareness of the opioid crisis and a science and math-oriented camp for kids.

■ Prior administrations

I already knew that prior administrations had handed over the production of penicillin and antibiotics to the vile Chinese Communists, but until the other day I had been unaware that we are also totally dependent on our major geopolitical enemy for vitamin C and aspirins.

I guess the upside is that China has no reason to invade us. Thanks to people named Clinton, Bush and Obama, this country was only too happy to hand over everything China could possibly have had on its wish list.



“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.

Thanking people who serve

- An article by Mark Becker titled “Heroes Honoring Heroes: First Responders Pay Tribute to Hospital Workers With ‘Parade of Lights’ ” was posted at wsoctv.com (Charlotte, NC) on April 9, 2020.
- An article by Shelley Terry titled “Kids for Positive Change Make Signs to Thank Essential Workers” was posted at starbeacon.com (Ashtabula, Ohio) on April 13, 2020.
- An article titled “Hallmark [Based in Kansas City, Mo.] Donates 2 Million Cards Thanking Workers” was posted at drugstorenews.com on April 20, 2020.

Deficit

- An article by Shawn Tully titled “Who Will Pay for the Coronavirus Bailout? If You’re Under 50 and Working, You Will” was posted at fortune.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Chris Edwards titled “Will Government Try Inflation to Combat Corona’s Potential \$6 Trillion Debt Addition?” was posted at cnsnews.com on April 21, 2020.

Federal reserve

- An article by Matthew Boesler and Yuko Takeo titled “The Fed Is Buying \$41 Billion of Assets Daily and It’s Not Alone” was posted at bloomberg.com on April 21, 2020.

Coronavirus and civil liberties

- An article by Craig Bannister titled “Actor Kevin Sorbo: ‘Wake Up People’; When the State Does These Things, ‘It’s Not About Your Health’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Dennis Prager titled “If Half the Country’s Deaths Were in Montana, Would New York Shut Down?” was posted at townhall.com on April 21, 2020.
- An article by Katie Canales titled “San Francisco Is Ordering Everyone to Wear Masks in Public, With Violators Subject to Possible Fines or Jail Time” was posted at businessinsider.com on April 17, 2020.
- An article by Maddie Capron titled “A Coronavirus Yard Sale? Idaho Cops Say Woman Cited for Violating Stay-At-Home Order” was posted at idahostatesman.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled “NYC Mayor Bill De Blasio Encourages Residents to Tattle on Their Neighbors” was posted at townhall.com on April 19, 2020.

Stimulus checks

- An article by Tim Ryan titled "One \$1,200 Stimulus Check Won't Cut It; Give Americans \$2,000 a Month Tax-Free to Fire Up the Economy" was posted at marketwatch.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Stacey Abrams: Feds Should Be Giving People Cash Payments So They Don't Have to Hurry Back to Work" was posted at cnsnews.com on April 21, 2020.
- An article by John Anderer titled "Coronavirus Survey: 84% of Americans Want Another Stimulus Check" was posted at studyfinds.org on April 22, 2020.

Finances

- An article by Catherine Ngai, Olivia Raimonde and Alex Longley titled "Oil Plunges Below Zero for First Time in Unprecedented Wipeout" was posted at bloomberg.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Joe Wallace, David Hodari and Amrith Ramkumar titled "Oil-Price Crash Deepens, Weighs on Global Markets" was posted at wsj.com on April 21, 2020.
- An article by Mead Gruver and Matthew Brown titled "Coronavirus Accelerates Decline of Slumping Coal Industry" was posted at apnews.com on April 19, 2020.
- An article by Edmund Heaphy titled "Coronavirus: Disney Stops Paying 100,000 Workers [Almost Half of Its Global Workforce] During Crisis" was posted at yahoo.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Elissa Nadworny titled "Can Colleges Survive Coronavirus? 'The Math Is Not Pretty' " was posted at npr.org on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Brian Sozzi titled "A Tsunami of Bankruptcies Are About to Wash Away America's Retail Sector" was posted at yahoofinance.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Sapna Maheshwari and Vanessa Friedman titled "The Death of the Department Store: 'Very Few Are Likely to Survive' " was posted at nytimes.com on April 21, 2020.
- An article by Sam Dean titled "The Sweatshops [in California] Are Still Open; Now They Make Masks" was posted at latimes.com on April 21, 2020. (Although the minimum wage in L.A. is \$13.50 per hour, the workers are reportedly making \$7 an hour.)
- An article by Ryan J. Foley titled "Tyson Foods [An Arkansas-Based Company] Idles Largest Pork Plant [in Waterloo, Iowa] As Virus Slams Industry" was posted at apnews.com on April 22, 2020.
- An article by Joshua Caplan titled "Farmer [in Minnesota] Says 61,000 Chickens Euthanized As Egg Sales Drop" was posted at Breitbart.com on April 22, 2020.
- Looking back to March, an article by Kaley Johnson titled "Texas Lt. Gov. Says He'd Risk His Life for American Economy to Resume During Coronavirus" was posted at star-telegram.com (Fort Worth, Texas) on March 23, 2020.

■ An article by Tessa Weinberg titled “ ‘More Important Things Than Living,’ Texas [Lt. Gov.] Dan Patrick Says in Coronavirus Interview” was posted at star-telegram.com (Fort Worth, Texas) on April 21, 2020.

Are coronavirus deaths accurate?

■ An article titled “Feds Classifying All Coronavirus Patient Deaths As ‘COVID-19’ Deaths, Regardless of Cause” was posted at nypost.com on April 7, 2020.

■ An article titled “Coronavirus Is Now the #1 Cause of Death in the U.S.— Surpassing Cancer and Heart Disease” was posted at fox17.com [Nashville, Tenn.] on April 10, 2020.

■ An article by Jacqueline Howard titled “No, the Coronavirus Is Not the Leading Cause of Death in the US, CDC Says” was posted at cnn.com on April 10, 2020.

Coronavirus and religion

■ An article by Jenny Beth Martin titled “Cracking Down on the Faithful [Religious People] Is No Way to Fight a Pandemic” was posted at townhall.com on April 11, 2020.

■ An article titled “Letters to the Editor: Churches Don’t Have a 1st Amendment Right to Ruin Public Health” was posted at latimes.com on April 18, 2020.

■ An article by Kristen Waggoner titled “In Coronavirus Crisis, Drive-In Restaurants OK But Drive-In Worship Services Cause All [Heck] to Break Loose” was posted at foxbusiness.com on April 19, 2020.

Green New Deal

■ Looking back to July, an article by Adam Shaw titled “AOC’s Top Aide Admits Green New Deal About the Economy, Not Climate” was posted at foxnews.com on July 12, 2019.

■ An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Cheers Oil Futures Price Plunge, Then Deletes Tweet” was posted at cnsnews.com on April 21, 2020.

Illegal immigration

■ An article by Spencer Ackerman, Noah Shachman and William Bredderman titled “Army Decides a Pandemic Is a Good Time to Give GOP Donors \$569 Million to ‘Build the Wall’ ” was posted at thedailybeast.com on April 16, 2020.

■ A Reuters article by David Ljunggren titled “Canada to Keep Border Restrictions With U.S. for a ‘Significant’ Time, Trudeau Says” was posted at reuters.com on April 16, 2020.

■ An article by Bronson Stocking titled “House Republicans Call Out Dems for Pushing ‘Extreme’ Immigration Agenda During Coronavirus” was posted at townhall.com on April 18, 2020.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Julio Rosas titled "Joy Behar Smears Americans Who Bring Guns to Protests As 'Terrorists' " was posted at townhall.com on April 21, 2020.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Burton W. Folsom titled "Compared to FDR, Trump Is a Crisis-Time Civil Liberties Champion" was posted at thefederalist.com on April 22, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Eric Lutz titled "Obama Finally Endorses Biden, Emphasizes His 'Progressive Platform' " was posted at vanityfair.com on April 14, 2020.

■ Looking back to 2008, a YouTube video that quoted Barack Obama titled "We Are Five Days Away From Fundamentally Transforming the United States of America" was posted at youtube.com in 2008.

■ An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Biden: Pandemic Crisis Provides Opportunity for 'Institutional Changes' in the US" was posted at cnsnews.com on April 22, 2020.

■ An article by Charlie Spiering titled "Barack Obama Warns Climate Change Will Be 'Far Harsher' Than Coronavirus" was posted at Breitbart.com on April 22, 2020.

■ An article by Sam Dorman titled "Heartland Institute Accuses 'Climate Alarmists' of Exploiting COVID-19 Pandemic to Advance Agenda" was posted at foxnews.com on April 7, 2020.

■ An article by Suzanne Smalley titled "John Kerry: New Trump Environment Rules Will 'Kill More Americans' " was posted at yahoo.com on April 17, 2020.

■ An article by Reagan McCarthy titled "Biden Begins His Leftward Shift on Climate After Clinching Endorsement From Environmental Group [League of Conservation Voters]" was posted at townhall.com on April 20, 2020.

■ An article by Katelyn Caralle titled "Barack Obama Launches Another Veiled Attack on Donald Trump Over Coronavirus, Praising Massachusetts for What It Is Doing 'While We Wait for a Coherent National Plan' " was posted at dailymail.co.uk on April 23, 2020.

■ An article by Sean Neumann titled "Kamala, Warren & Abrams Raise Their Hands After Joe Biden Confirmed VP Pick Will Be a Woman" was posted at people.com on April 17, 2020.

■ An article by Marc Caputo titled "Democrats Dream of Biden's Perfect Running Mate: An Obama [Michelle]" was posted at politico.com on April 20, 2020.

■ An article by Jan Delano titled " 'I'd Take Her in a Heartbeat': Joe Biden Says He Would Pick Michelle Obama to Be His Vice President" was posted at cbspittsburgh.com on April 20, 2020.

- An article by John Kruzel titled "Valerie Jarrett: 'No Chance' Michelle Obama Will Be Biden's VP" was posted at thehill.com on April 21, 2020.
- Looking back to March, an article by Nels Frye titled "Why China Is Rooting for Joe Biden to Win 2020 Presidential Race" was posted at nypost.com on March 12, 2020.
- An article by Charles Lipson titled "The More Anger at China, the Worse for Biden" was posted at realclearpolitics.com on April 17, 2020.
- An article by Chrissy Clark titled "Hunter Biden Remains Listed As Board Member of Private Chinese Company" was posted at thefederalist.com on April 15, 2020.
- An article titled "Joe Biden Accuses President Trump of Being Too Soft on China in Coronavirus Response" was posted at yahoo.com on April 19, 2020.
- An article titled "Gov. Kristi Noem Vows to Keep South Dakota Open, Becomes Public Enemy No. 1 for the Left Amid COVID-19 Crisis" was posted at foxnews.com on April 16, 2020.
- An article titled "Letters to the Editor: Trump Didn't Prepare for the Coronavirus, And Neither Did You" was posted at latimes.com on April 18, 2020.

News about the media

- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Coronavirus Was All But Ignored in First Three Democrat Debates of the Year [on Jan. 14, Feb. 7 and Feb. 19]" was posted at cnsnews.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Sarah Frier titled "Facebook Put Warnings on 40 Million Misleading Covid-19 Posts" was posted at bloomberg.com on April 16, 2020.
- An article titled "Facebook Says It Will Remove Posts That Do Not Support Social Distancing at Protests" was posted at bostonglobe.com on April 20, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "YouTube: If You Disagree With the WHO, We're Pulling Your Content" was posted at townhall.com on April 21, 2020.
- An article by Michael Liedtke titled "Pandemic and Chill: Netflix Adds a Cool 16 Million Subscribers" was posted at apnews.com on April 21, 2020.
- An article by Rick Porter titled "Network Newscasts Keep Up Ratings Momentum During Pandemic" was posted at hollywoodreporter.com on April 22, 2020.
- An article by Brendan Morrow titled "Dr. Phil Begrudgingly Apologizes for Comparing Coronavirus to Swimming Pool Deaths" was posted at yahoo.com on April 17, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "MSNBC [Joy Reid] Spends An Entire Segment Talking About How Lockdown Protesters Are Racist Confederates" was posted at townhall.com on April 18, 2020.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "MSNBC's Hot Take [on Joy Reid's Sunday Show]: 'If You Want the Government to Open, Then You Want More Black and Brown People to Die' " was posted at townhall.com on April 19, 2020.

■ An article by Shawn Langlois titled “Dan Crenshaw, Future President? Former Navy SEAL Cheered for His ‘Takedown’ of Bill Maher” was posted at marketwatch.com on April 20, 2020.

General interest

■ An article by John Haltiwanger titled “Dr. Fauci Throws Cold Water on Conspiracy Theory That Coronavirus Was Created in a Chinese Lab” was posted at businessinsider.com on April 18, 2020.



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.”