

China is Trying to Gain a Toe Hold in Michigan

By Chris Johnson



“Whether we like it or not, [TikTok] is a tool for disseminating important information, and that’s how we use it,” Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer told CNN earlier this year.

Whitmer does like it. Her account has over two hundred thousand followers who can watch her announce her support for pro-abortion legislation, LGBT ideology, gun control, Michigan State Basketball, and her love for her dogs. She’s posted 247 times and received over 3 million likes.

However, whether she likes it or not, TikTok is also a tool for Chinese surveillance, which the State of Michigan recently acknowledged by banning the use of the social media app on all state devices. Well, almost all. As Michiganders know too well from Whitmer’s weekend trip to Florida weeks after she urged Michiganders not to travel during the pandemic, our governor likes to have her own set of rules. BigGretchWhitmer, as she’s still known on TikTok, continues to share those important messages (and dog videos) on the app, although, we’re assured, NEVER from a state network.

The reason that Michigan, as well as half of the other states in the nation, has banned TikTok from their devices is not only the incontrovertible fact that the app sucks up users’ data, but that TikTok’s parent company ByteDance, being based in China, is

required by Chinese law to “*support, assist and cooperate with the state intelligence work in accordance with the law.*” So, all that data hoovered up by the Chinese company is required to be accessible to the Chinese government.

But, that law doesn’t only apply to data companies, but to “any organization or citizen.” So any company based in China and operating in the US would be under the same directive, like, say, Gotion, the Chinese battery manufacturer being sweet-talked by Whitmer into opening a plant in Mecosta County, Michigan.

Michigan won Gotion’s heart over several other states competing for the project by offering a \$125 million grant, \$540 million worth of state property tax relief, and an additional \$50 million performance-based grant. In addition to state incentives, the company would also be exempt from local taxes for a number of years.

That’s an awfully big incentive for a global competitor, especially when a month ago fighter planes were shooting down Chinese spy balloons, including one over the Great Lakes.

We can’t trust their social media apps, because they spy on us. We shoot down balloons they sent to spy on us. But we will give \$715 million of incentives to set them up in our backyard. Surely, their intentions

are 100% noble.

In return, the Chinese company promises to bring around 2,500 jobs to the rural West Michigan location, which no doubt would look awfully nice on the Governor’s resume when she runs for president in a few years.

The original planned location for the Gotion plant straddled the border of Green Charter Township and Big Rapids, but after Big Rapids residents very sensibly pushed back, the company seems to have decided to plant both feet in Green Charter Township.

And, to be sure, those jobs would change a lot of lives in that rural part of the state. As CEO of the Mission Economic Development Corporation - which had to approve the incentive package - noted, the project represents the “largest economic development project this far north in the great history of Michigan.”

Nearby Big Rapids is the largest municipality in the area and it has a population of less than ten thousand. Twenty-five hundred jobs would change the entire landscape, resulting in an influx of new residents and new businesses and new opportunities. That would all be wonderful for the community – for as long as it might last- but it would all be built on a China based company, and, again, required by Chinese law to “*support, assist and cooperate with the state intelli-*

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Personal Note from the President



This month's newsletter was the most difficult that I recall in our 36 years of writing newsletters. I had designated myself to write the front page and when I was done with the rough draft, I found that I was 500 words too long. And, as I read and re-read what I wrote - I knew that my article drastically missed the mark. Then, I read the articles written by Lisa, Chris and Steve and I was filled with thankfulness for each of them. I realized I needed to regroup myself.

Things are really serious in our country and in my state of Michigan. On March 22, Tucker Carlson interviewed Tudor Dixon - she was the Republican gubernatorial candidate in our last election against Governor Gretchen Whitmer - regarding one of the most concerning issues that we have ever faced in our home state of Michigan, certainly in my life time.

As you read the front page article, I think that you will understand why I make such a strong statement.

If this wicked scheme in Big Rapids is not stopped and things unfold as they are being outlined and reported, we will have a communist corporation plundering our land tax free, occupying one square mile, bringing in communist employees who will be housed in university dormitories (Ferris State University) with the freedom to operate under the auspices of communist China and led by a man who is affiliated with the World Economic Forum (WEF) - a globalist, communist operative. What is the company? A producer of lithium batteries - to quicken the expansion of electric cars and do away with gas automobiles. I heard a clip of Joe Biden speaking as strongly as I have ever heard him basically saying words like the following: "Mark my words, we will be doing away with fossil fuels." Much more could be said on this but that is not my

key point.

I don't see how we can stop this evil. What is unfolding has only gotten to this point because of evil maneuvering/malfeasance at the highest levels that we have not been able to stop.

Mark my words, Dear Reader: Michigan is not a liberal state! Travel the state. Talk to the people and you would see what I mean. However, like many states, look at the electoral maps and you will see that the liberal centers are the large cities, not the vast majority of the counties. Several key factors have led to the unfolding of this situation. Fraud in our elections in heavily populated areas run by not just liberals (they have a right to their views), but corrupt liberals, who control the voting places in major metropolitan places - like Detroit. In addition, George Soros money and monies that come from outside the state and in some cases outside the country - massive amounts of funding - have been very influential in the election of Governor Whitmer, State Attorney General Dana Nessel and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson.

In addition, these very forces had everything to do with the landslide victory in 2022 that returned these officials to their positions and delivered a sweep of all three branches of government into the hands of the Democratic Party for the first time in 40 years. Is this because Michigan has suddenly become a left-leaning state? I submit the answer, "not a chance." I have already enumerated how this has happened and the leftist forces are moving at break-neck speed to convert Michigan into what?

God is working out His sovereignty according to His good pleasure just as He saves whomever He will and chooses not to save whom He will not. God tells us in His Word that He raises up nations and takes them down.

Matt Walsh, producer of the "What is a Woman?" documentary, wrote several years ago in the Blaze: (Below is a very short sample of questions that Walsh raises regarding "Is America a great nation?")

"Is a great country so confused that it can't tell the difference between male and fe-

male? Does the nuclear family collapse in a great country? Does a great country have historically high rates of divorce, unwed pregnancy and fatherless homes? Do little girls get IUDs implanted in them by school officials without parental consent in a great country? Do citizens burn down their own cities in a great country? Is moral relativism the cultural driving force in a great country? Are churches empty in a great country?"

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ~ Genesis 18:25

I received an email from a special friend south of Grand Rapids very recently. She said in part: *"Obviously we as believers are moving in the spiritual realm as the war is increasing. **Too many people are disappointed as they don't see their work going anywhere. I say God knows what we are doing so that is our reward. Keep up the fight and know God cares and we are making a difference even if we cannot see it in the natural realm.**"*

"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." ~ 2 Timothy 4:5

Yogi Berra, the New York Yankee Hall of Famer from years past was notorious for his counter intuitive statements that yet were truisms. Like, the familiar, *"It ain't over til' it's over!"* Hallelujah!

Christ IS King!

In closing, I have loved ones in foreign lands in loving and bold ministries serving in the Philippines and Turkey with their young children. For now, our struggles pale in comparison to theirs; those are tough places in which to minister. But who knows what God has in store for us? We have much we can learn from their examples. How do they do it?

2 Timothy 4:5.

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gence work in accordance with the law.”

But if it's not enough that the company would *have* to assist Chinese intelligence, the owner and founder of Gotion is a member of the Chinese Communist Party. His son, the CEO of Gotion – Li Chen – is a WEF Young Global Leader. Their loyalty is not to the United States, let alone West Michigan. China would have the families of twenty-five hundred employees essentially held hostage, should the US make “the wrong move” that would harm China.

Consider, for example, if the US ever decided to take a principled stand on the backbone of this energy technology – the mistreatment, which amounts to slavery, that goes into mining the rare earth metals required to build these batteries. China has an essential control of the lithium supply, holding 65% of the world's mines.

As the Democrats push to wean us off from fossil fuels, of which America holds the world's major supply, it is lithium-ion batteries that are taking their place in many ways – an unmitigated benefit to Communist China. And it is plants like this one and another planned plant by Ford in Detroit that will serve as hooks to yank the US in the economic directions China wants us to go.

When our energy storage is dependent on Chinese lithium, and a significant segment of our workforce is dependent on Chinese-owned factories, how will we dare tell them ‘no’ on anything?

The Gotion plant is not a done deal yet. There is still lots of planning to be done, permits to go through, and the incentives package still has to go through the legislature. But there is significant pressure on the state government to make this deal happen. Pray that it doesn't, for the long term good of the nation and the people of Michigan. If

you are a Michigan resident, please contact your representative, and get the word out about this to your friends.

China is trying to get a toe hold in Michigan, and TikTok user TheBigGretch is trying to help. That's reason enough to know it's bad for our state.

Upcoming Conference: Using God's Blessings for His Glory



Some might say, with all of the economic insecurity and kerfuffle it is not an ideal time to be addressing the matter financial management, financial planning, and stewardship. Or is it? **Perhaps it is in times like these in which we should especially look at how we can best use the resources God has given us for His Glory.** We look forward to hearing what you think as we get together!

It is to that end that we are hosting a financial conference to do what we have done in other realms: inform, encourage, warn, counsel and to exhort ourselves in areas where we might well need to take action – in areas that can be somewhat complicated and yet is a concern that is always before us.

As most of you are aware, we have hosted leading figures in a variety of fields:

- * Bringing back integrity in voting issues (Pat Colbeck)
- * National security (Frank Gaffney)
- * Homosexuality (Stephen Black, Janet Porter)
- * Sharia and the Muslim Brotherhood (Kamal Saleem)
- * See Something Say Nothing (Phil Haney)

* and others

On this occasion, we are bringing in Christian Financial Advisor, Brent Jackson, head of Harvest Financial based in Dayton, Ohio (with an office in Grand Rapids) to help us look at financial matters, perhaps in ways we never have before.

Below are a few of the subjects Brent will be helping us with:

1. Spiritual concepts in money management
2. Lessons from the stewardship parables
3. How to think about inheritance and estate planning
4. Charitable strategies for Kingdom Building and tax reduction

Lunch break: With specially prepared lunch, dessert and drink (complimentary)

When:
Saturday, April 29, 2023
Time: 9 AM – 1 PM

Where:
Oakhill Presbyterian Church
1930 Leonard Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

As Christians, God calls us to be good stewards of what he has entrusted to us. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more on how we can apply Biblical concepts to this important aspect of life – our finances.

To help with planning for food, please register by going to www.americandecency.org and clicking the link at the top of the page or call Kimberly at 231-924-4050 or email at kimberly@americandecency.org.

A further side note for some of our activist kindred spirits who aren't necessarily drawn to talking about money management, I anticipate a discussion on current issues regarding banking, ESG, the attack on the dollar and investing biblically and patriotically - that God would be glorified!

Falsehood at the Frauenthal and Transgender Tragedy

By Lisa Van Houten



“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” ~ 2 Timothy 3:13

Our culture is disintegrating before our eyes. What was considered perverse not that long ago is now being celebrated and normalized. A prime example is the mainstreaming of drag queen shows – gay men, primarily, who don garish makeup, wigs, and dresses and dance erotically for the titillation of audiences. As one “drag queen” stated: *“Yes, we’re here, we’re queer and you better deal with it. ‘Cause we ain’t going nowhere.”*

Drag queen shows are popping up all over – restaurants, casinos, hotels, theaters, schools, and universities – as well as drag queen “story hours” in libraries and elementary schools – and even in “progressive” churches. **Here in West Michigan the Muskegon Civic Theatre recently hosted two drag queen shows on March 25 at the Muskegon Frauenthal Theater. This once-esteemed theater, which for decades has brought refinement and culture to West Michigan, is now hosting raunchy drag queen shows.**

Can you imagine that taking place 10, or even 5, years ago? The advancement of the LGBTQ agenda has permeated every vestige of society as the vast number of people who oppose it are silent at its encroachment. And with little opposition, it becomes normalized.

In addition to these drag shows, the Muskegon Civic Theatre is also hosting a performance of “Cinderella” at the Frauenthal in May. **But parents be warned, this is not the whimsical Rogers and Hammerstein version, but a woke re-write by gay-activist playwright Douglas Carter Beane who turns Cinderella into a social activist.** As one reviewer stated: *“You can al-*

most feel Beane ticking off the moral lessons he wants to teach about self-actualization, bullying, female empowerment ...”

A few years ago, when ArtPrize in Grand Rapids, MI included a Down Syndrome drag show, we at American Decency spoke out strongly against this degradation of disabled individuals and sought its cancellation. While the performance ultimately occurred, the venue which had originally planned to host it cancelled and a new venue had to be found. We also shed light on the fact that a professor at Calvin University (a supposedly Christian institution) was instrumental in bringing in the Down Syndrome drag show. Calvin was inundated with calls and emails of protest regarding the affiliation. The professor ultimately resigned.

The adage attributed to Edmund Burke may sound trite, but it’s true. ***“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”*** Yet, often we are too concerned about being labeled a “bigot” or “hater.” We equate Christianity with being “nice” – but true Christianity is exemplified by love. Is it loving to remain silent while a sinful ideology takes root, deceiving our neighbors? It’s always easier to do nothing, but God calls us to lovingly speak truth in hard places. ***“If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.”*** Proverbs 24:10-11

We see what is happening as a result of those promoting gender confusion: the indoctrination of children that denies their God-designed identity and puts them on a path of irreversible mutilating surgeries, harmful puberty blockers, chemical castration, and depression. These young people are “stumbling to the slaughter,” paying the price for years of silence from adults in society who have allowed the lies regarding sexuality and gender to spread.

“Jazz” Jennings has long been the poster-child used to normalize transgenderism in children and teens. “Jazz,” a boy, now 22 years-old, was pushed into “transitioning” to female by his mother when he was 5 years-old; was on puberty blockers at 11; and had multiple genital-mutilation surger-

ies at age 17. “Jazz” has been featured in a reality TV series on TLC since 2015, seeking to normalize transgenderism, while the children’s book he co-wrote in 2014, “I Am Jazz,” has been used nationwide to entice and delude other children to join the transgender cult. “Jazz” has been fawned over by celebrities and received countless LGBT awards, but, in a recent heartwrenching clip from his reality TV show, “Jazz” is seen sobbing, stating: ***“I just want to feel like myself. All I want is to be happy and feel like me, and I don’t feel like me, ever.”*** Tragically, he will never be the man God created him to be, because the adults who were supposed to protect him - parents, teachers, doctors – went along with the delusion of a five year-old.

Joe Biden said it was “close to sinful” and “cruel” for states to pass legislation protecting children from transgender mutilation, adding that he wants to pass federal legislation prohibiting states from protecting minor children from life-altering transgender surgeries and drugs. Ron DeSantis fired back at Biden, stating: “It is not ‘sinful’ to prohibit the mutilation of minors. ... Children are not guinea pigs for science experiments, and we cannot allow people to make money off mutilating them.”

What **is** sinful is to deny the Truth which God has revealed to all mankind and to use and abuse children in order to advance a wicked ideology. Isaiah 5:20 warns: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil.”

We cannot remain silent; be a voice of truth and love to those who are deceiving and those being deceived.

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Bowing to Molech in Michigan

By Steve Huston



Molech was a false god of the Canaanites that required child sacrifice to ensure future benefit. During the sacrificial process, a fire inside or around the statue was lit. Once the statue was as hot as possible, the newborns were placed into the red-hot arms of Molech while onlookers and worshippers watched the children sizzle to death. When the child cried out, the priests would beat drums or play flutes so that the father might not hear the voice of his son, to keep his heart from being moved. Aren't you glad you live in a civilized country where such barbarous practices are denied? Thankfully, the Supreme Court repealed Roe v Wade and we've come to our senses – well, almost.

We, in Michigan, believed that our unborn children would be safe from the altar of Molech because of the 1931 law which protected children in the womb. However, acting as high-priestess, “Governor Gretchen Whitmer took immediate action to protect access to abortion in Michigan after the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled today that county prosecutors can enforce the state’s extreme 1931 law that criminalizes abortion without exceptions for rape or incest and punishes doctors and nurses who offer reproductive health care. The governor’s request for a temporary restraining order builds on her ongoing efforts to protect abortion in Michigan...” (michigan.gov – 8/1/22)

Right to Life of Michigan recently reported: “The Michigan House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Health Policy Committee sent bills to repeal the 1931 abortion law to their chambers.

“By an 8-5 vote in the House and a 6-4 vote in the Senate, committee members voted in favor of the bills that will repeal the 1931 law. The house also voted against 15 amendments that prolife committee

members presented. There were no amendments offered for the senate vote.” The report continues, “While Genevieve Marnon was prepared to explain to the committee that the 1931 law is important because it is the only law protecting children from abortions later in pregnancy, the committee only allowed a handful of proliferers to testify. During the House committee, six pro-abortion comments were made while one proliferer was allowed to speak. During the Senate committee, ten pro-abortion comments were made with no time restraints while five proliferers were allowed to comment and altogether, were given 15 minutes. The committee allowed the pro-abortion comments to trail off into personal stories about abortion and how the 24-hour waiting period needs to be repealed, which was irrelevant. During prolife public comments, the committee interrupted each person throughout the entire three minutes, including our Legislative Director's allotted time. It was very clear that the committee was being controlled by the sponsors of the bills. ...”

After its repeal, Barbara Listing, Right to Life of Michigan president, issued a statement: “*Today's reckless vote takes us down an increasingly dangerous path, and Michiganders are watching. This sweeping removal of common-sense health and safety protections that have been in place for decades further demonstrates the radical pro-abortion stance to which the majority of our elected officials have come to subscribe. This position puts viable human life and women's health second to an increasingly radical agenda that knows no boundaries.*”

Thanks to technology, barbarity comparable to Molech worship takes place within the silence of the womb. No one hears the vehement cries that are present, except the Heavenly Father, our Creator and theirs. And when a society, that has long been asleep, starts to awaken to these silent cries—finally coming to our senses—there are those who bang loudly the misnomer drum of “women’s reproductive health care.” there are officials who play the unconstitutional flute loudly so that many cannot hear the silent cry of the child and the culture drifts back to their sleep of apathy.

In 1985 Donald Wildmon, founder of American Family Association, wrote a stunning article entitled *300,000 Silent Pulpits*, which begins: “*Today, 4000 innocent precious lives of unborn babies were snuffed out. Their arms and legs were torn from their bodies, their skulls crushed. One and one half million times each year our ‘civilized’ society will take an innocent life.*”

Rev. Wildmon continued listing the various ways in which morality has declined while 300,000 pulpits remain apathetically silent, ending with the phrase: “*Sometimes blasphemy comes unnoticed.*” Since 1985 the moral strength of our nation has decreased alarmingly. I don’t know how many innocent, precious lives of unborn babies were snuffed out at the altar of Molech in Michigan today and I don’t know how many Michigan pulpits have continued to be silent about the cultural issues that surround us – issues that are more than political, more than cultural – **issues that are Biblical.** But I do know this. **Our nation will continue to devolve into oblivion if we do not return to the teachings of Jesus Christ, if we won’t bow our knee to our Creator.**

Have we become so calloused or apathetic that it’s politics as usual? Will we remain silent while those cries muffled by the womb come before the Judge of all the earth? Will we with Daniel, the prophet, confess our sin before the Heavenly Father – recognizing that the sin of the nation is upon our shoulders as well? That confusion of face is not just for the next fellow, but for us as well? Will we cry with Isaiah, “Woe is me, for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips:” **How did Isaiah come to such a realization?** “For mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

May God open our eyes to see our uncleanness, may the Spirit convict our hearts that we might repent and behave anew. May our Hope be in Christ alone, magnifying Him with our life or our death - walking as Jesus walked, speaking as He spoke, and doing the will of the Father. **Oh God, forgive us!**

Woe to Us ...

By Lisa Van Houten



Recently, China's dictator Xi Jinping met for a three-day summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin, demonstrating their alliance of a "friendship without limits." While China was asserting its growing global dominance, what was Joe Biden doing? Entertaining the cast of the TV show, "Ted Lasso" in the Oval Office.

As China prepares its forces for war, the U.S. military seems more focused on preferred pronouns. China has more troops, more ships, and may soon have more nuclear weapons than the United States. China's explosive military growth and aggressive saber-rattling should be a wake-up call, but with Biden bought and paid for by communist China and an increasingly weakened, woke military, **will those warning signs be heeded?**

Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth warned: **"If we got into a major war with China, the United States homeland would be at risk as well with both kinetic attacks and non-kinetic attacks — whether it's cyberattacks on the power grid or on pipelines. . . They are going to go after the will of the United States public. They're going to try to erode support for a conflict."**

The People's Liberation Army has more intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers than the U.S., and now also has nuclear-capable hypersonic missiles which can evade most defenses. The U.S. is playing catch-up and currently doesn't have any operational hypersonic missiles. The Federalist reports, "a nuclear-equipped hypersonic missile exploding over the United States could create an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) that would effectively destroy the nation's electrical grid, which our 'leaders' have failed to harden. Such an attack would immediately put us back into the mid-1800s, possibly causing more than 300 million Americans to eventually perish."

China has 347 satellites gathering intelligence on the U.S., and is developing anti-satellite missiles, electronic jammers, and lasers to attack our satellites, knowing how reliant the U.S. is on satellites for a wide range of military functions. Gen. Chance Saltzman, of the U.S. Space Force, warned that Beijing is preparing for what could eventually be a "large-scale, sustained conflict."

In addition to China's efforts to undermine us militarily, they're also successfully killing millions of Americans. Communist China, working with Mexican drug cartels, is flooding the U.S. with the deadly drug, fentanyl. According to the CDC, **fentanyl is now the leading cause of death among U.S. adults, ages 18-45** – the age group that would make up our fighting force in war.

Yet as China aggression increases, what is the U.S. military focused on? In February, the Department of Defense proudly tweeted: **"Diversity is a strategic imperative critical to mission readiness and accomplishment. We were on site for the 2023 inaugural @DoD_ODEI Summit as DEIA experts led forums to advance the DEIA and DoD mission -- because our people matter."** (DEIA stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility – which is neo-marxist ideology.) No, Department of Defense, diversity is not your mission - protecting the U.S. homeland from attack and defeating the enemy in case of war is your one and only mission.

Yet woke ideology is permeating the military, destroying it from within - in a way that communist China only dreams of doing. "During the month of June, when China was launching a new aircraft carrier, the Navy was launching an ad campaign teaching sailors how to use the 'proper' pronouns for people who identify as another gender," Family Research Council reports. In 2022 the Air Force Office of Diversity and Inclusion (that the Air Force has such a department is concerning enough) boasted of hosting 67 gay pride celebrations and stated they intend to "organize more events this year." Meanwhile, an Air Force Academy cadet told Fox News: "It's a little worrying that we have more briefs about D&I [diversity and inclusion] than briefs

about foreign adversaries, emerging technologies or current events across the world." Rep. Mike Walz (R-FL) stated: *"Over the last two years we've seen a disturbing trend taking place at our military academies that puts politics over service. ... Every minute our soldiers spend in sensitivity training is a minute they could be at the rifle range. Chinese and Russian soldiers certainly won't be focused on what pronoun a U.S. soldier uses."*

These examples are only the tip of the iceberg of woke ideology in the military. Recruitment has also plummeted, with the U.S. Army falling 25% short of its annual recruitment goal, and that's after the Biden administration reduced the Army by 12,000. Meanwhile, the average age of Air Force fighter planes is 28 years old, our aging naval fleet spends less time at sea and more time in dry dock for repairs, and we're depleting our stockpile of weaponry to send to Ukraine.

Then there's the weakness this administration projects on the world stage. Who can forget the Chinese spy balloon the Biden administration allowed to float across the U.S., including sensitive military installations, collecting intelligence data. And when a Russian fighter jet recently forced a U.S. Predator drone to crash, Biden's Pentagon merely chastised Russia for their **"environmentally unsound and unprofessional manner."** I'm sure that tongue-lashing really scared Putin. Yet, I suppose that aligns with the Pentagon's new policy which designated *"climate change as a national security priority, integrating climate considerations into policies, strategies, and partner engagements."*

While this picture of our military is extremely troubling, our ultimate help and hope is not in military strength. As Isaiah 31:1 states: *"Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!"* **America's primary weakness is not due only to a compromised military, but to a compromised people who no longer look to the Holy and Sovereign Lord.**

Lessons Learned in the Covid Era

By Chris Johnson



Neil Ferguson and Imperial College played a preeminent role in shutting down most of the world. The exaggerated forecasts of this modeling team are now impossible to downplay or deny, and extend to almost every country on earth. Indeed, they may well constitute one of the greatest scientific failures in modern human history.”

Masking was the first of many controversial responses to the novel coronavirus that began to reign in the imaginations of civil authorities at every level. For some foolish, well-intentioned leaders, the imagining took the shape of death-tolls and societal breakdown. But for the more nefarious and power-hungry, the possibilities for seizing control were what occupied their fancies.

It must not be forgotten that the strongest proponent of wearing a mask, and later even TWO or THREE masks, began the debate by urging the public to do the opposite.

Then, within weeks, he revealed that he had only urged people NOT to wear masks for fear that health professionals would not be able to get their hands on the masks they would need.

Thus Dr. Anthony Fauci, at the outset of his celebrity, revealed to the public not only that he was not always right, but that he was willing to lie to them for what he contended was their own good.

This confidence in ignorance, trust-the-professionals-and-forget-what-they-said-yesterday approach would become the context of controversy after controversy over the next several years.

Another of the earliest examples was the almost universally cited computer models of Covid's projected spread and death toll, helmed by Imperial College's Professor Neil Ferguson. IT was the main impetus for the rallying cry, "Two Weeks to Flatten the Curve," which we are all too aware gradually stretched into months, and for some segments of the population, years.

Yet, a year after the lockdowns were implemented, largely under Ferguson's influence, Phillip W. Magness wrote for the American Institute for Economic Research, "Just over one year ago, the epidemiology modeling of

Yet this "scientific failure" was the basis for nonsense draconian rules, illegally enforced by power hungry state officials. Recall the images of city workers putting caution tape around play structures, filling skate parks with sand, and boarding up basketball hoops. Remember the videos of police arresting a lone surfer on an empty beach or shoving a mother into a police car for bringing her kids to the park or of Idaho Christians being arrested for singing Psalms outside their city hall. Michigan restaurant goers sat at tables in walled tents with propane heaters in the middle of winter set up right next to the much more comfortable restaurant buildings. We walked past the taped off gardening section of home improvement stores (some even had security guards).

And here we began to hear the mantra that would ring in our ears for the next few years: "trust the science." Neil Ferguson's science, Anthony Fauci's science, which had already been proven to be simply a tool for manipulation. Trust the scientists we heard, including Fauci, who were at that time saying that the idea the virus had escaped from a lab was ridiculous and rooted in bigotry. Yet emails acquired via the Freedom of Information Act, reveal that at the time he was saying this, his colleagues were discussing exactly that possibility with him, and he was not nearly so confident in dismissing the claim to them. And now, several federal agencies, including the FBI, have publicly stated their belief that the Covid 19 does, in fact, come from a lab in China.

Then along came the vaccine, and by this time, we were supposed to have learned that the science could be trusted and there was consensus! Except for all the people who disagreed, but they were just conspiracy theorists who weren't even allowed to post on Facebook.

First, there were incentives. Free burgers, free donuts, free weed if you could prove that you had received a vaccine; the alleged goal was to make us healthy, remember. Then there were threats: you couldn't travel to certain places, you couldn't attend restaurants in New York City or DC or LA without proof of vaccination.

The vaccine was sold as the only way to ensure that you and the people around you would be safe from the virus; people questioned whether natural immunity was even possible. But it didn't take long before "immunized" people started getting sick again, so they needed a booster, and then another booster, and then another.

The vaccines went from being sold as safe and effective, to being sold as safe, to not being talked about at all as people like James O'Keefe shared footage of Moderna and Pfizer executives and scientists unloading their consciences regarding the unethical activity around the rollout of these drugs.

After all of this, medical journal The Lancet released a report in February of this year, which is summarized, "Although protection from reinfection from all variants wanes over time, our analysis of the available data suggests that the level of protection afforded by previous infection is at least as high, if not higher than that provided by two-dose vaccination using high-quality mRNA vaccines."

There are many more examples of the damage to individuals and the culture as a whole which could be shared, but as we cross the threshold of the three-year anniversary of the Covid era, we must not let ourselves forget the lessons we learned.

The government cannot be trusted with your wellbeing. "Scientific consensus" simply means peer pressure. The news media only provides the information that will move you in the direction they want you to go. Medical professionals are susceptible to popular narratives. Trust your Bible, your pastor, and your own eyes – and if your pastor tells you not to trust the other two, it might be time to find a new one.

Are you a hateful science-denier?

By Steve Huston



“Transgenderism” is on the rise with drag queen story hours, drag brunches, and other drag shows popping up everywhere, dragging our culture down into an abysmal state of confusion, confirming unreality in our children/teens. It’s even coming to small towns like nearby Whitehall, which, by the grace of God, was cancelled, as we were getting ready to send out an email alert. When sending out an email encouraging others to thank Tennessee’s Governor Bill Lee for signing legislation that protects families and children (both gender dysphoric and those accepting the gender with which God designed them), we received the following response, using brackets [] to indicate my rewording of expletives.

“What the governor did is contrary to **settled** medical science. ‘Settled’ in that **every** mainstream medical association - every one - underpins their *Clinical Practice Standards* with gender-affirming care, including the use of GnRHa. To defend scripture (and don't tell me you give a rat's [tail] about LGBTQ kids) you are denigrating a very vulnerable minority. Moreover, you are effectively calling their parents abusive and stupid for following the best available medical science. ...”

If you stand for truth, you may get similar pushback: regurgitation of the false party/cultural line, ad hominem attacks, and claiming you’ve said something that you haven’t. Frequently, **the purpose in doing these things is an attempt to shame one into silence, make one seem ignorant of facts, or to keep others from hearing anything you have to say through an inducement to hatred or fear. Don’t be silenced; in all that you do, do it as unto the Lord.**

Our responses needn’t be deep; most aren’t looking for a real discussion or objective truth. However, we should have a depth of

truth to draw from, for some will be seeking. **Remember: All truth is God’s truth; whatever departs from His Word is falsehood.** As Solomon stated, “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding;*” and “*...fools despise wisdom and instruction.*” (Pr. 9:10; 1:7b)

The author of the above email calls it “**settled** medical science,” speaks of “every mainstream medical association” using gender affirming care, “including the use of GnRHa.” (GnRHa stands for Gonadotropin Releasing Hormones Agonists; when used in “gender affirming care” they are commonly known as puberty-blocking drugs.)

It may be “**settled**” in the minds of those who are socially engineering our young, are hoping to turn culture from truth, and are deniers of reality, but, according to the scientists, it is far from “**settled** medical science.”

According to the American College of Pediatricians, puberty-blocking drugs (GnRHa) “may cause mental illness,” “may cause permanent physical harm,” and may be the cause of “permanent side effects including osteoporosis, mood disorders, seizures, [and] cognitive impairment,” as well as sterility. “Cross-sex hormones put youth at an increased risk of heart attacks, stroke, diabetes, blood clots and cancers across their lifespan.”

Also, “Many medical organizations around the world, including the Australian College of Physicians, the Royal College of General Practitioners in the United Kingdom, and the Swedish National Council for Medical Ethics have characterized these interventions in children as experimental and dangerous. World renowned Swedish psychiatrist Dr. Christopher Gillberg has said that pediatric transition is ‘possibly one of the greatest scandals in medical history’ and called for ‘an immediate moratorium on the use of puberty blocker drugs because of their unknown long-term effects.’”

This February, The BMJ (formerly: British Medical Journal) published a lengthy and in-depth article entitled *Gender dysphoria*

in young people is rising—and so is professional disagreement. I would encourage you to read this easy-to-understand piece.

“In 2022 the state of Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration commissioned an overview of systematic reviews looking at outcomes ‘important to patients’ with gender dysphoria, including mental health, quality of life, and complications. ...concluding that ‘there is great uncertainty about the effects of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries in young people.’ The body of evidence, they said, was ‘not sufficient’ to support treatment decisions.”

Regardless of where one stands on the continuum of “gender-affirming care,” it is certainly not “**settled** medical science.” I would remind our readers that “**settled** medical science” at one time included bloodletting, icepick lobotomies, and lithotomy to name a few, all of which are now considered horrendous. All of man’s science – **ALL of it** – has eventually had to bow to God’s science – His truth. It’s not only been the springboard for discovery in medicine, natural ecosystems, oceanography, and a host of other studies, but it deals with man’s deepest need – his eternity.

There are other rebuttals to be made regarding this man’s response. Let’s address his final question.

Who are we to opine on medical science?

First, we were opining on a political action, not medical science. **Secondly**, he himself is opining on medical science and doesn’t seem to have a problem with others who do so as long as they are in agreement with his position. **Thirdly**, as people who believe that the Word of God is true for every age and in every circumstance; as people who love God first and fellow humankind as ourselves, second; and as lovers of truth and haters of falsehood, we opine on the Word, grace, and justice of God. This is not to our credit but by God’s grace that we stand for His glory and the good of mankind. **Finally, it is better to convert their soul and transform their mind by the Word than to pervert their mind and transform their body by the word of man.**