

Monthly Update

May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May is associated with spring, flowers, green trees, warmer weather, gardening – and optimism; now it seems to be preoccupied with the Coronavirus. We have information in the Update about this – and other issues that affect our United Methodist Church.

We received a call from a lady in Alabama who liked the “Psalm 91” prayer insert in the April Update; she thanked us for what we do. It is heart-warming to know that information we send out is used by those across the country who love the Lord.

It is hard to believe that we in Concerned Methodists have been involved in this battle for over thirty years. In 1988, three other men and I were discussing concerns we had about denominational officials supporting different aspects of radical far-left political causes. A few years earlier I had been asked by Reverend Tom Holtsclaw to do a review of mission study materials on South Korea using a book from the General Board of Global Ministries entitled *The Fire beneath the Frost* and authored by Peggy Billings since I had been stationed there for over a year. It was a view of that country’s society with underlying verbiage that was all-too-familiar from a left-wing perspective. I told my pastor that I would be glad to – but I had to tell the truth; he told me to “absolutely tell it as it is” and do not skirt the truth. In addition, a hobby of mine since I was a teenager had been the study of Marxist-Leninist theory and practice. I gave my presentation to my church when the time came – and then wrote a four page letter to the General Board of Global Ministries critiquing the book, thinking they would take my letter constructively. Instead, they sent a reply that said in “nice words” that I really did not know what I was talking about. For the next few years, I monitored other priorities of church employees, what they supported and what they opposed, with my concerns growing. Then when the three other men and I were discussing issues that were similar, we found that we had common ground. I wrote a letter summarizing them and sent it through the pastors of our two churches to our district superintendent and bishop thinking they would see the problems and correct them. Instead, the reaction was similar to what I had encountered earlier that, in effect we “did not know what we were talking about” (not those words, but that was the meaning) and trust the church leadership. Since all of us were either active or past military, and were well versed in world affairs, we knew that our information was solid. It was then that we determined that we would form a group to do what we could to “contend for the faith” and get the United Methodist Church back to a more Christian basis. We are “staying the course.”

What is happening in our denomination is related to what is going on in society as a whole – and vice versa. As I had once told a group in the North Little Rock Conference when I gave a talk for Concerned Methodists: “we are called for such a time as this.”

Thank you for supporting what we do for the cause of renewal and by investing in the future of our United Methodist Church.

In His service,

Allen O. Morris
Executive Director

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May 2020 Update

Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

Americans would rather die on their feet than live on their knees. ~ George Washington

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The Good Stuff

+ ***Praying and fasting.*** Those in the “Methodist Societies” had a systematic practice of praying and fasting – from Thursday after dinner to mid-afternoon on Friday. Following are prayers copied from a card I received from the World Methodist Council guide. May I offer them to you? I hesitate to mention this since we are told by Jesus to not make your deeds public, but starting with Good Friday, I fast all day on Fridays against what we experience in our country. – AOM

The Thursday evening prayer: To you, God, we offer the coming day's devotion of prayer and fasting. Thanks be to you for the example of Jesus. Grant that we made die to ourselves. Make us new in Christ. Feed the starvation of soul, of thought, of will and after the quiet rest of sleep, open our mouths to praise you in the morning. Through Christ your Son, our Light and our Strength. Amen

Morning prayer: How great and gracious you are, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! We pray for your world – for righteousness, justice, peace, healing, hope and salvation. May the whole world know amazing grace, healing, and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Savior of the world. In the power of the Holy Spirit we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

Mealtime prayer: Thanks be to you, God, for all your gifts and for the food that we shall not enjoy today. Thanks be to you for the inner nourishment of your presence and for new vigor in our prayer through this sign of fasting. Thanks be to you for family, children, friends, neighbors, near and far. Thanks be to you for Jesus, Bread of Life. Amen

Prayer for breaking fast: To you, God, we have offered this day of prayer and fasting. We pray for healing and for a worldwide Pentecost, so that the world may know Jesus Christ! And it is in His name that we offer this prayer and sign of fasting. Amen

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+ Dr. Ralph Richardson, champion for Christ.

[**Note:** A former Methodist, good friend, and supporter, he taught the Bible clearly as no one else I ever knew.
– [AOM]

Dr. Ralph Drew Richardson: November 21, 1928 ~ March 21, 2020 (age 91)

On March 21, Dr. Ralph Richardson went to be with the Lord. He was pastor of the Campbellton Church for 13 years, then built and pastored The Church of the Open Door for many more years and started the Bible Alive Ministries about 40 years ago. He founded the Carolina Bible College, even being physically involved in its construction with hammer, nails, paint and established a beautiful library open to the community. He served the college as President and Professor. He authored and published 20 books, many of which were curriculum textbooks used in the college. Bible Alive Ministry was worldwide with his daily radio Bible messages being carried on 14 stations for over 17 years.

A private graveside service was held March 24, 2020 with arrangements made by Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home; a public memorial service will be conducted at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make any donations you wish to:

* Carolina College of Biblical Studies, 817 S. MacPherson Church Rd., Fayetteville NC 28303; Tel: 1-910-323-5614

Email: info@ccbs.edu; Web: <http://www.ccbs.edu>

* Church of The Open Door, 4445 Cliffdale Rd., Fayetteville NC 28314; Tel: 1-910-864-3237; Web: <http://codfnc.org>

* Bible Alive Ministries PO Box 2222, Fayetteville NC 28302; Tel: 1-910-491-8949;

Web: <http://www.biblealiveministries.org/>

+ **An over-the-road trucker.** “Guys I’m just blown away right now! I just got pulled into the scale house in Mebane along with every other trucker. Not because my load was too heavy or there’s a problem with my truck. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol is handing out free lunch to all the truckers from Firehouse Subs! To top it all off he thanked me for my service and told me he appreciated what I did out here every day! I can’t lie people I’m about in tears. We don’t get a lot of thanks for what we do it’s mostly cussed out...[deleted]. This really made my day as a truck driver especially from the guys that put their life on the line daily for me! Take a bow North Carolina State Highway Patrol and Firehouse Subs today you are the real MVP’S! Please feel free to share so hopefully these guys know how much this small gesture made such a big difference in the life of a truck driver today. ???#ncshp #firehousesubs”

[Note: A commentary on the above post was: “It’s nice to see that even in a time like this we can still show kindness and compassion towards each other. Keep it going because that’s what we need more than anything. Let’s continue to build each other up. We’re all in this together! God bless each and everyone of you and your families.” – AOM]

Of Interest. [Note: With many concerned about this area, I wanted to offer a really good treatment first. – AOM]

+ **Treating coronavirus patients.** Dr. Vladimir Zelenko has now treated 699 coronavirus patients with 100% success using Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate, Zinc and Z-Pak: 700 coronavirus patients treated with 99.9% success rate using Hydroxychloroquine, 1 outpatient died after not following protocol.

Dr. Zelenko, a board-certified family practitioner in New York, has successfully treated 350 coronavirus patients with 100 percent success using a cocktail of drugs: hydroxychloroquine, in combination with azithromycin (Z-Pak), an antibiotic to treat secondary infections, and zinc sulfate. Dr. Zelenko said he saw the symptom of shortness of breath resolved within four to six hours after treatment. Hydroxychloroquine is now being used worldwide, according to a map from French Dr. Didier Raoult. In the meantime, scientists at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine believe they’ve found a potential vaccine for coronavirus. Dr. Zelenko provided updates on the treatment after he successfully treated 699 COVID-19 patients in New York. In an exclusive interview with former New York Mayor, Rudy Giuliani, Dr. Zelenko shared the results of his latest study, which showed [in greater detail] that out of his 699 patients treated, zero patients died, zero patients intubated, and four hospitalizations. Dr. Zelenko said the whole treatment costs only \$20 over a period of 5 days with 100% success. He defines success as “Not to die.” Dr. Zelenko first posted his Facebook video message last week calling on President Trump to “advise the country that they should be taking this medication.”

There are many other success stories about hydroxychloroquine across the country and around the world as attested by a survey of over 6,200 doctors on its efficacy.

– March 28, 2020

+ **Covid crisis.** [Note: A really good analysis. – AOM] Coronavirus. COVID-19. SARS-CoV2. Wuhan Flu. Whatever you want to call it, we are seeing a new nasty little bug. This thing has all kinds of symptoms, and at the same time, some people have had no symptoms. It ravaged China, and if you believe the numbers out of China, I have some cheap land in Arizona oceanside. However, the healthcare field is finally figuring out how to treat it. I think the other nations that dealt with it in numbers before we did had no clue how to treat it. They treated it like ARDS or Sepsis, and I think we have figured out that was worsening outcomes. ...we won’t know for a while what the final answer is for this hidden enemy.

What we have to understand, is that like any other disease, herd immunity is the answer. Whether it is through vaccines, or exposure, the only way to deal with this bug is immunity. I am not having the discussion on vaccines. Use them, or don’t use them, that is a whole other discussion. However, staying in lockdown, not going anywhere, continuing to keep everything status quo will NOT get rid of this bug. If you are proposing to wait another month, then in that month, you will be saying to stay another month. Flattening the curve was

never designed to stop the spread. It was merely to spread it out over 6 to 12 months, so that the healthcare system could handle the infected patients, without overwhelming the system. To do that, we need to start allowing people to slowly integrate back into society.

Waiting for a vaccine is not the answer. A vaccine may or may not help in 18 months. Furthermore, this silliness of having papers that say you have had a vaccine so you can go from state to state is socialistic communism.

It is appalling of the people that are willing to stay under lock and key at the thought that this will go away. What are you going to do in 6 months, when we tank into the same level of 1929's depression? Some of those that are screaming we have to stay locked down have jobs that aren't going anywhere. However, there are many people wondering where their next paycheck is coming from. People are going to lose their homes.

How many of your freedoms are you willing to give up for this COVID lockdown? You need to ask those questions really seriously. If you don't think many in office aren't looking at how much they got by with during this pandemic, you are mistaken. They will know how much they can take without much of a fight.

As far as this bug, we don't know what the real death rate is. Primarily because many are not being tested. Others who are dying are not dying from COVID, but because they had a cough, or lack of taste, but they died of other co-morbidities (to include heart attacks with no related causes), CDC has already admitted to requiring these to be ruled COVID deaths.

This disease is real. It is hurting people. It is killing people. Can we compare it to Flu? Hard to say. I personally think the numbers are being skewed from multiple perspectives. Is it going to compare to the pandemic of 1918? I doubt it.

The point is.... Staying in lockdown for another 30 days won't stop the inevitable. A phased opening of society will allow the spread to be contained to manageable levels. That is what flattening the curve means. I expect some businesses will start opening up. I fully expect the social distancing rule to remain for months. I expect the building occupancy rules to remain in place for months. I expect masks will be order of the day for months.

I do not believe we should just return to the way it was in February.

Our society and economy will survive this, but the longer we continue what we currently have, many of our citizens will be ruined. Our economy and society will be damaged to the point that many will not overcome the ruin, and many of you who think you will retire in under 15 years, better give that dream up. –

Facebook post; Apr 22, 2020.

+ **Observation on the “pandemic” – my view.** I believe that where we are as a country is problematic. Prudent measures can be taken to maintain health and safety, yet at the same time get us back to work and open up the economy. A friend of mine, an immigrant from a “third world country” who loves the United States better than, I would estimate 99% of US citizens, had called me on Vietnam Veterans’ Day to congratulate me and to thank me for my service; I had forgotten what that Sunday had signified – but she had not. Then she was passionate about the American people letting themselves be manipulated and take this course of action. She is a Black lady, so when I say “she was passionate” – you can envision that she was really passionate! She had said, “Americans are the ones who had stormed the beaches on D-Day and took Iwo Jima and raised the American flag! What are they letting themselves do here? They are giving up their freedom!”

I will say, that I've “crunched the numbers” – and they do not add up by comparison – for us to be shut down. –

AOM

+ **The American Family Association.** State and local governments are mandating public measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Some political officials, in their attempt to minimize the spread, have imposed restrictions that violate citizens’ constitutional liberty. I want you to be aware of your fundamental rights, including religious liberty, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly. Furthermore, I encourage you to remind your political leaders of these rights.

Email your governor and state legislators now! Constitutional rights are a nonpartisan issue. Regardless of political party affiliation, our leaders need to be reminded of our constitutional rights. Insist they protect your

constitutional liberty during this pandemic. If the government restricts constitutional rights during times of crisis, restrictions must:

Be temporary.

Be evenly applied.

Not substantially burden the free exercise of religion without a compelling governmental interest.

Use the least burdensome approach to achieve that interest if a compelling interest exist.

Government's temporary, evenly applied restrictions may be permissible. However, government may not substantially burden the free exercise of religion unless it has a compelling reason for doing so, and even then, it must use the least burdensome approach that achieves that compelling interest. Temporary action to reduce the spread of a global pandemic is almost certainly a compelling reason, so long as the government is not treating religious institutions differently or unfairly compared with how it treats other comparable institutions and/or gatherings. For example, the government can't place more restrictive limits on attendance at religious functions than the limits it places on nonreligious entities – like a supermarket or building supply store.

Even in times of crisis, constitutional rights, such as religious liberty, don't ebb and flow. Instead, liberty is cemented in our nation's founding documents—the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. These rights are unchangeable. Yet, reports indicate state and local governments treat them as fluid and have violated these rights.

For example, on April 7 in Greenville, Mississippi, Mayor Errick Simmons issued an order banning all church services, including church drive-in services. The city's police department enforced the order and ticketed church members with \$500 fines for attending a drive-in church service. Mayor Simmons' unconstitutional actions prompted a response from U.S. Attorney General William Barr. He publicly criticized the mayor's decision saying:

“In times of emergency, when reasonable and temporary restrictions are placed on rights, the First Amendment and federal statutory law prohibit discrimination against religious institutions and religious believers. Thus, government may not impose special restrictions on religious activity that do not also apply to similar nonreligious activity. Religious institutions must not be singled out for special burdens.”

In the Garden State of New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy recently issued an executive order banning large gatherings, closing all state parks, and requiring residents to stay at home. Under Gov. Murphy's order, 15 men were arrested for attending a synagogue service. During a Fox News interview with Tucker Carlson, Gov. Murphy was asked about his constitutional basis for his order that led to the arrest of the 15 men. Gov. Murphy said:

“That's above my pay grade, Tucker. I wasn't thinking of the Bill of Rights when we did this (executive order)... We looked at all the data and the science, and it says people have to stay away from each other. That is the best thing we can do to break the back of the curve of this virus, that leads to lower hospitalization and ultimately fatalities.”

Gov. Murphy's response is a glaring example of the willful lack of consideration of constitutional liberty during times of crisis. Across the country, governors, legislators, and mayors must be reminded of our constitutional rights and that constitutional liberty must remain intact, even during a pandemic such as the COVID-19 crisis.

Send your governor and state legislators an email now! Remind them of their sworn oath of office to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Sincerely,

Tim Wildmon, President

American Family Association

– American Family Association, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803

+ **“Pandemic threatens ministry with migrants.”**

BROWNSVILLE, Texas – United Methodists are still providing aid to migrants seeking asylum in the U.S., but the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered their efforts by ending face-to-face interaction with those living in camps.

“We welcome immigrants. We know they strengthen our communities and our economy. We believe all families belong together.” – Rob Rutland-Brown, director of National Justice for Our Neighbors.

[Note: At a time when our leaders are having trouble getting this pandemic under control, this political activism tends to destabilize our country. Illegal immigrants have been found to have diseases, some of which we had eradicated from our country. In addition, the illegal drug traffic is facilitated from this area. Rob Rutland-Brown was quoted as saying, “...We believe all families belong together.” I could not agree more. However, there are those who commit crimes and become separated from their families when they are put into prison, reaping the consequences of their own actions. There are servicemen “separated from their families” who leave and go off to combat, through no decision of their own. As a retired Army man, I know of all too many of those situations. It is time that church employees supported by United Methodist laypeople’s money act responsibly and practice the Biblical precept “a man reaps what he sows.” – AOM]

– Kathy L. Gilbert, as reported in United Methodist News Service (UMNS) Daily Digest; Apr 27, 2020.

+ ***Will Misreporting COVID-19 Deaths Add to the Panic?*** The coronavirus crisis [is] bad enough without guidelines that make it look worse; CDC rules for death certificates allow for deaths from other causes to be listed under the coronavirus.

These rules need to be changed. Early in 2020, a highly contagious and deadly coronavirus coming from China began to spread throughout the globe. World leaders turned to epidemiologists for advice on how to project the number of deaths and prevent the spread. They constructed models upon these figures. As a result of this advice, whole cities have been quarantined. Scores of “non-life-essential” businesses are closed, and their workers suddenly unemployed.

Painting a Bleak Picture. Understating the crisis could be fatal. However, there also exists the danger of overstating the threat and painting a bleak picture that will cause panic and despair. Accurate numbers provide a sure way to fight the virus efficiently. For this reason, policies for determining coronavirus death now in place need to be changed.

Involve All Americans in the Fight Against the Coronavirus! Dr. Steven Schwartz, the director of the Division of Vital Statistics, devised procedures that doctors are to follow when death certificates include the dreaded term, COVID-19. On March 24, 2020, his office issued COVID-19 Alert No. 2, which included the following protocols:

“COVID-19 should be reported on the death certificate for all decedents [deceased persons] where the disease caused or is assumed to have caused or contributed to death. Certifiers should include as much detail as possible based on their knowledge of the case, medical records, laboratory testing, etc. If the decedent had other chronic conditions such as COPD or asthma that may have also contributed, these conditions can be reported in Part II” (emphasis added).

Is the Picture Accurate?

When the general public hears about COVID-19 deaths, many assume previously healthy people contracted the virus and died. This perception can generate fear and panic since it conveys everyone is equally vulnerable to the disease.

Dr. Schwartz’s instructions reinforce this perception by inflating the death numbers attributed to COVID-19. Physicians are instructed to assume that COVID-19 as the cause even when a person is already near death from other diseases. No test confirming that finding is needed. The assumption suffices.

A U.S. Standard Certificate of Death lists the primary cause of death in Part I of Item 32. Other contributing causes are listed in Part II. If someone, for example, goes into the hospital with a life-threatening case of pneumonia, it is listed as the primary cause. If a person later contracts another viral infection and dies, the complicating virus is listed in Part II.

If the same patient contracted COVID-19 under the same conditions, Dr. Schwartz’s instructions place the COVID-19 infection in Part I, regardless of its role in causing the death. The physician has the discretion to list pneumonia in Part I, Part II, or not list it at all. The death is recorded in the statistics of Coronavirus victims released to the public.

Getting an Accurate Picture. The uninformed public accepts the inflated figure. It assumes that COVID-19 kills otherwise healthy people and prompts actions that may or may not be proper in the circumstances. To get an

accurate picture of what is happening in this crisis, Dr. Schwartz's instructions must be revised to show COVID-19's role in each death. The number of deaths needs to be broken down into those in which COVID-19 was the only known cause and those in which it was a complicating factor. New instructions should also remove the assumption of infection by requiring a test to determine the actual presence of COVID-19 in the deceased. These numbers would assist both government officials and the public in assessing the true scope of the crisis. There are two great dangers in overstating the risks of COVID-19. The first is the threat to the mental health of the public caused by panic and stress. The second is the economic harm to vast numbers of families and the nation at large caused by an inadequate and uninformed response to the crisis.

Preventing both these dangers warrants these minor, but essential, changes to the death statistic calculations.
– Edwin Benson, The American TFP, April 6, 2020.

A Way Forward. General Conference (GC202) is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 30–Sept. 10, 2021 in Minneapolis.

(UM) Men. Men's ramp ministry adapts to COVID-19. The Memphis Conference. PADUCAH, Ky. – The men of Reidland United Methodist Church, for over a quarter century, have provided handicap access to those who cannot safely get in and out of their homes and can't afford to hire a contractor. The Ramp Ministry Team is able to continue the ministry while still social distancing. – UM News Weekly Digest; Apr 24, 2020.

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The ONLY “non-essential” business is the one you didn't put your heart and sweat into building.
Don't EVER forget that. Especially the non-essential politicians that seem to be everywhere.
~ Dan Bongino

Global Outlook

Courage is contagious – and when a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened. ~ Reverend Billy Graham

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Brazil. Praying in Brazil. People are praying against the “pandemic” everywhere in the streets of Brazil asking for God's healing mercies on the nation. Amen – Date: Apr 28, 2020

China. Rethinking China. “We will be forced to review our relationship.”
[Note: This is a “plain-spoken” expansive perspective by “TFP” an allied renewal group in the Catholic Church. – AOM]

Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed [the above] intimidating statement to Donald Trump, who called COVID-19 the “Chinese virus.” The President of the United States, leader of the greatest economic and military power in history, felt the need to surrender and stop using the “Chinese” adjective. Just before, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, also guilty for having said that the coronavirus originated in China, had bowed to Beijing as well. He could not afford to lose the Chinese market. For the same reason, Argentine President Alberto Fernandez blocked an investigation into secret agreements with China signed by the previous administration. And one can forget about Europe's weak rulers. They do not even dare to raise the issue.

By brandishing its economic supremacy with surreal arrogance, China is rewriting history. With blackmail and propaganda, it has managed to go from criminal to hero in just a few weeks. According to many experts, the coronavirus pandemic originated in China and spread thanks to the negligence and chutzpah of Beijing's communist government. Yet, today China presents itself as a model, a Good Samaritan even, imposing its policy on a sad and subjugated West.

One of the great enigmas of our time – a real mystery of iniquity – is how the West, proud of its democratic and liberal philosophy, submitted so quickly to a dictatorial, communist government. How the tycoons of

industry and finance, who bragged of creating history's richest civilization, allowed that wealth – therefore, power – to slip through their fingers and into the hands of an enemy. Yet this situation was entirely predictable and...avoidable. It is a consequence of the West's blind and suicidal policy toward Chinese communism, against which Professor Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira raised his voice in the thirties. As far back as 1937, the Catholic leader denounced how the United States was arming Chinese and Soviet communists: "The State Department has announced that licenses to export arms and equipment to China in November reached a total of \$1,702,970. Also, for the Soviet Union, export licenses for war materiel reached \$805,612.... We do not understand how the United States sells weapons to the communists, the most dangerous and abominable enemy of civilization." In 1943, when the defeat of Nazism was only a matter of time, Prof. de Oliveira foresaw the next enemies: communism and Islam. His prophetic foresight, however, went even further: "The Muslim danger is immense. The West seems to close its eyes to it, just as it keeps them half-shut to the immense danger of yellow paganism."

After the war, the West continued to ignore this danger, allowing communists to take control of China. Two factions contended for that immense territory: The Kuomintang, of nationalist orientation, led by Chiang Kai-shek, and the Chinese Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong. The Soviet Union supported the latter. In 1945, Plinio Oliveira denounced Soviet interference in China: "If there were any doubts about the Soviet Union's insincerity, just look at what happens in China. Despite the commitments made in the peace treaty it signed with Chiang Kai-shek, Russia has reignited the civil war in China....We cannot fail to note how much the Chinese Communist Party is a toy of Russian imperialism, which brazenly uses it to achieve its international goals." With the support of the Soviets, who also occupied Manchuria, in 1949, Mao Zedong defeated Chiang Kai-shek and established the People's Republic of China, and began to expand toward Tibet and Southeast Asia...[and all that ensued afterwards. – AOM]

From one concession to another, the West came to the decisive one: President Nixon's trip to China in February 1972.

[Note: Although this was hailed as "significant" I saw it as the slippery slope to benefit China economically. – AOM]

After Mao Zedong died in 1976, Deng Xiaoping took over and started the so-called Beijing Spring, a first timid opening of the Chinese system to capitalism without ever denying communist ideology – all in the spirit of the Shanghai Communiqué. As a consequence, the West began to invest in China. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira warned that the flow of Western aid would provide China with the means to pursue its expansionist goals: "Can China aspire to control the region to expand [its domination] later? It does not lack a large territory, an overabundant population, and a desire for conquest. However, to carry out that great effort, it will need considerable industrial and military might, which communism has not given it.... Communist China will only be able to develop and achieve imperialist superpower status with the help of capitalist nations."

In 1980, China's per capita income was lower than that of the poorest African nations. Today, China produces 50% of the world's industrial goods. All this, once again, with Western money and know-how imprudently transferred to China following the illogical 'logic' of 'wild capitalism' and globalization. While Westerners filled China with money and technology, the Chinese unscrupulously followed what a Western analyst dubbed a "Bismarckian policy," that is, a well-defined project of [economic growth].

Rethinking China. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, seems to have changed [...how we view China. – AOM].

China's responsibilities in the pandemic now gripping the world are increasingly evident. The only ones denying it are the Chinese communists, who also threaten with hefty punishment those who dare to affirm the obvious. As Beijing's arrogance reaches surreal levels, the West is beginning to wonder if it has not gone down the wrong path. "China infects us, buys us, and we thank her," is how political philosopher Massimo Cacciari summarized the situation. An international movement is also growing to demand a "Nuremberg Trial" to ascertain Chinese communist responsibility and possibly demand compensation.

In this sense, recent statements by Charles Cardinal Maung Bo, Archbishop of Yangon, capital of Myanmar, are unequivocal. "[T]here is one government that has primary responsibility, as a result of what it has done and what it has failed to do, and that is the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) regime in Beijing. Let me be clear – it

is the CCP that has been responsible, not the people of China, and no one should respond to this crisis with racial hatred towards the Chinese. Indeed, the Chinese people were the first victims of this virus and have long been the primary victims of their repressive regime. They deserve our sympathy, our solidarity, and our support. But it is the repression, the lies, and the corruption of the CCP that are responsible.” That is precisely what Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira asserted in the now distant 1937.

I will not delve into the weighty responsibility of the Vatican’s Ostpolitik toward communist China, which went hand in hand with the American one, and which, under the pontificate of Pope Francis, has reached alarming excesses. This subject is so relevant that it deserves separate treatment.

Maybe God is telling us something with this pandemic, and the time has come to rethink our strategy toward communist China ab imis fundamentis (from its foundations). Tomorrow it will be too late.

But to do this, we need courage. One that does not come from [just] our natural strengths, be they political, economic, or cultural. We need the intervention of divine grace on souls. Faced with the immense tragedy that our world is now experiencing, shaken by this pandemic to its foundations, I wonder if the time has not come to cry out to Heaven: Forgiveness! Pardon! Pardon! I am sure that Heaven will answer: Penance! Penance! Penance! Conversion! Conversion!..

[Note: I have studied Marxist-Leninist theory and practice since I was a teenager, and written several papers on various aspects of it. In the Army, I also “operated” in different international environments dealing with this ideology. What is laid out in this study by the TFP comports with what I have learned over time. I have also wondered how it was that so many people in the United States could be blind to the reality of communism, an atheistic ideology that has exhibited brutality unprecedented in the history of the world (until recently with Islam’s record). An added bit of information is that in the last few months, in excess of 21,000,000 cell phone accounts in China have disappeared from the electromagnetic radio spectrum, indicating that number of fewer users. How could this be? Is it connected with a greater loss of life in that country than has been reported? Possibly so; maybe not. Also, things are happening in the “underground church” there that are not commonly known. We need to inform ourselves; that is why I wanted to examine this and the “Covid-19” pandemic in such detail. In addition, as TFP has stated, we need to “do all we can – and to seek spiritual help”! – AOM]

– Julio Loreda, “Rethinking China”; The American TFP; April 21, 2020.

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During my (AOM) morning Bible study a few days ago, a footnote commentary on the scripture that really spoke to me and is so appropriate was Nehemiah 6:8, 9 where Sanballat and Tobiah opposed Nehemiah on his work of rebuilding the wall for Jerusalem. The commentary was: “If the enemy cannot use apathy to cause us to cease from our labors on behalf of the gospel, he will use intimidation. Fear is his poison, but faith is the antidote.” ~ Ray Comfort