



Pandemia: COVID Hysteria, Corruption Exposed by Former *NY Times* Reporter

'We Should Be Done' With COVID-19 Now

BY STEVEN W. MOSHER

By March 2020, thanks to the grim reports emanating out of China, the hysteria surrounding COVID-19 was already replicating faster than the virus itself. Dr. Anthony Fauci, on the basis of what turned out to be flawed models, was predicting millions of American deaths. Then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo, after being told that New York's hospitals would soon be overrun with critically ill patients, demanded that Donald Trump overnight him tens of thousands of respirators.

Alex Berenson, however, took a deep breath and decided to see for himself what the epidemic models, hospital records, and scientific papers were really saying about the novel coronavirus. Within a few weeks the former science writer for



Image courtesy of Hillsdale College

The New York Times could see two crucial facts emerging from the data itself.

The first was that, contrary to what we had been told by Communist China, COVID was far less threatening than it had originally seemed. Yes, it could be deadly, especially to the elderly and people with severe co-morbidities such as kidney disease. But it was not the

second coming of the Black Death. It wasn't going to kill 5 percent of those it infected. It would not overwhelm the medical system, much less all of society. And he was right. Cuomo would soon be shipping respirators to other states.

His second discovery was that brutal lockdowns—the idea for which had likewise come from Com-

(continued on page 4)

INSIDE

- 2 China's Epidemic History
- 5 Jesus the Bridegroom
- 7 Tragedy in Argentina
- 8 2022: Our Time is Now
- 9 Hope Arises in Chile

- 10 Europe in Conflict
- 11 PRI in the News
- 11 Your New Year Resolve
- 12 From the Countries



COVID latest but not first of epidemics from China

by Steven W. Mosher

It is for good reason that Francis Gasquet, whose book on the Black Death was published in 1908, asserted that “China is the great breeding ground of epidemics.”¹ Genomic analyses have shown that smallpox, the bubonic plague, and multiple deadly influenzas, including the “Spanish Flu,” actually originated in China.

In fact, the earliest known epidemic for which we have archeological evidence swept across northeastern China 5,000 years ago. It was a precursor of things to come.

The World’s First Plague

A few years ago, excavating the site of a prehistoric village, Chinese anthropologists discovered a tiny house choc-a-bloc with bodies. Almost a hundred corpses had been hastily thrown into the single room of the dwelling 5,000 years ago, after which it was burned to the ground and the village itself abandoned. Fire was the chief purifying agent of primitive man.

The village was located in China’s northeast, a vast area stretching from just north of Beijing all the way to the Amur river which marks the border with Russia. Hamin Mangha, as the site is called today, contained the foundations of 29 houses, but only one was filled with human bones. The 97 bodies had been stacked two and three high, suggesting that they had died too quickly to be properly buried. Half were children, and half were adults.

After considering a number of different scenarios, including warfare and earthquakes, the anthropologists Zhu

“The historical record suggests that China has probably never been completely free of the plague.

and Ji concluded that “the large death toll might have been caused by a plague in the Horqin Sandy Land (in northeast China) 5,000 years ago.”²

The outbreak doesn’t seem to have been restricted to Hamin Mangha, to judge from the existence of another mass burial site dating from the same time. A couple hundred miles away lies Miaozigou, which was excavated some years earlier.

Chinese scientists are unable to give a clear answer to the question of what killed the residents of Hamin Mangha and other settlements up to hundreds of miles away. It could have been smallpox which, in one form or another, plagued humanity for at least 10,000 years before it was eradicated a few decades ago.

We know from written records that practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine have been grappling with deadly strains of smallpox since well before the birth of Christ. By 200 B.C., they had already invented an early form of vaccination, called variolation, to protect people against the disease.³

(continued on next page)

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COVID not first epidemic from China, *continued*

Deadlier than Smallpox

But there is an invisible killer even deadlier than smallpox that may have struck Hamin Mangha. This would be the same disease that was responsible for three of the greatest pandemics in recorded history—the Plague of Justinian, the Black Death, and the Yunnan Plague—the Bubonic Plague.

All three plagues, each of which made their way West, can be traced back to major epidemics in China. The historical record suggests that China, at least from the time of the first Shang dynasty (1600–1046 B.C.) has probably never been completely free of the plague.⁴ The reason is that China is the ancestral home of the plague bacillus, *Yersenia pestis*, and certain populations of rats and other rodents there serve as natural reservoirs of the disease.

The preliterate people who lived in Hamin Mangha did not leave us a written record of their travails, but the archeological record establishes that they relied on both farming and hunting for food. And among the animals they hunted was a ground-dwelling rodent—something like a prairie dog—called a marmot. Marmots, as it happens, are among the natural reservoirs of the Plague bacillus.

Even today, marmot hunters in northeast China occasionally come down with one or another variety

of the Plague through contact with infected animals. Hunters can become infected not just through bites from infected fleas, but by direct inoculation while handling or skinning carcasses of infected marmots. For this reason, illnesses and even deaths from Bubonic Plague are not uncommon in northeast China, even though the disease itself can now be easily treated with antibiotics if diagnosed early.

The last major epidemic of the Plague occurred in China's Northeast in 1910–11. Medical experts trace this epidemic—this time of the deadly pneumonic variety—back to marmot hunting as well.⁵ Estimates of the death toll range up to 60,000, but this number is largely based on urban statistics.⁶ It is impossible to know how many people in the surrounding countryside or remoter villages succumbed.

The Pneumonic Plague is among the deadliest diseases on earth, with a fatality rate close to 100 percent. If an outbreak of the Pneumonic Plague had occurred in Hamin Mangha, few residents would have been left standing, and the village would have been abandoned by default.

Another Suspect: The Flu

Aside from the Plague, there is one other suspect in the murder mystery that is Hamin Mangha. We

cannot rule out the possibility that this early epidemic was caused by a novel influenza virus. Many influenzas have crossed the species barrier over the millennia and taken up residence in new host populations of human beings. This may have been a true zoonosis, as such infectious diseases are called, of a new and deadly virus.

China's large population provides ample opportunity for such a virus (or bacteria) to gain a permanent foothold among its new hosts and become an endemic disease. The several viral pandemics that have emerged from China over the past century or so, including the Spanish Flu, the Asian Flu, and the Hong Kong Flu, are proof of this.

Returning to our plague village of Hamin Mangha, we cannot know today whether the villagers perished of smallpox, the Bubonic Plague, or some unknown but deadly flu virus.

The only thing we are sure of is that the residents of Hamin Mangha did not die of something like COVID-19 or, as I call it, the China Virus. That particular scourge would have to wait until PLA bio-weapons experts had mastered 21st century genomic technology, created an enhanced coronavirus in the lab, and released it upon the world.

¹ Francis Aidan Gasquet, *The Black Death of 1348 and 1349* (London: Bell, 2nd edition, 1908), p. vii.

² Yonggang Zhu, Ping Ji, "Investigation on the Mass Graves Found in House Foundations at the Hamin Mangha Site, Inner Mongolia: Exploration and Reflection on Prehistoric Catastrophic Events," (in Chinese). *Archaeology and Cultural Relics* 5 (2016): 5. https://en.cnki.com.cn/Article_en/CJFDTotal-KGYW201605005.htm

³ Benenson A.S. (1976) "Smallpox." In: Evans A.S. (eds) *Viral Infections of Humans*. Springer, Boston, MA. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4613-3988-5_20.

⁴ Huigang, Liang et al, "A brief history of the development of infectious disease prevention, control, and biosafety programs in China," *Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity* 2(1) (March 2020): 23-26.

⁵ There are three varieties of the plague caused by the plague bacillus, *Yersenia Pestis*: The Bubonic Plague attacks the lymphatic system, the Pneumonic Plague infects the lungs, while the Septicemic Plague infects the circulatory system. One-third of those who come down with the Bubonic Plague survive, but the other two are generally fatal.

⁶ <https://disasterhistory.org/the-manchurian-plague-1910-11>

munist China—were useless in stopping a highly contagious airborne respiratory virus. Locking families up in their homes—and out of the fresh air—was, if anything, counter-productive. The lockdowns, he concluded, were doing far more damage to the country than COVID itself. They were destroying livelihoods and eroding constitutional rights—all on account of an illness that the vast majority of us would handily survive.

If We Were Wrong About Lockdowns and Masks...

If American public health officials were wrong about the fundamentals, Berenson asked himself, what else might they be getting wrong? He began trying to inject some sanity into the debate over public health policy, and quickly wound up tweeting a couple dozen times a day.

He tweeted that all the sound and fury surrounding ventilators was misplaced. The ventilator shortage was “mythical,” he wrote. And, citing the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, he said they weren’t “lifesavers, but had also likely killed some patients.”

He tweeted that Fauci and other public health officials had been all over the map on masking, first saying that it didn’t stop the spread of disease, then saying that it did, then insisting that everyone above the age of 2 strap one on. He showed that the scientific justification for masking was nonexistent. Not only were studies of masks few and far between, but those that had been done suggested they were no better at stopping viruses than a chain link fence was at stopping mosquitos.

It wasn’t long before Berenson’s accurate but irreverent tweets were generating pushback from his former colleagues at the *Times*, his friends, and even his own family. The epithets began to fly. He was variously called a COVID denier, a conspiracy theorist, a grifter, a liar—and other things that are not fit to print. His father was upset with him for appearing on the Tucker Carlson Show. His wife, who as a medical professional was herself under pressure to conform to the twists and turns of the COVID narrative, suggested that he get a real job.

Berenson decided to self-publish a pamphlet on Amazon. This way he could do a deeper dive into the science than was possible on social media, as well as keep mama happy by making a contribution to the family larder. The censors at Amazon had other ideas, however. His *Unreported Truths about Covid-19 and Lockdowns* was instantly rejected.

That would have been the end of Berenson’s self-publishing venture if he didn’t happen to have a follower named Elon Musk. “This is insane @JeffBezos,” America’s leading entrepreneur tweeted out. “Time to break up Amazon. Monopolies are wrong!”

Bezos blinked. Amazon reversed itself within the hour, acknowledging that the censorship had been a mistake. *Unreported Truths* and three follow-up pamphlets were published and sold hundreds of thousands of copies. In them, he questioned the school closures, the lockdowns, and the masking. Score one for the truth-teller.

Then Came the Vaccines

Berenson is not an anti-vaxxer. He believes that vaccines in general have

“ It wasn’t long before Berenson’s tweets were generating pushback from his former colleagues at the *Times*, his friends, and even his own family.

been a great boon to mankind. Like tens of millions of Americans, he has his school-aged children receive all their immunizations. Nor does he deny that COVID can kill, repeatedly pointing out that it can be deadly to the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions. It would be great, he thinks, if we could safely offer everyone salvation in a syringe, one-shot protection that would last for years, if not for a lifetime.

But as the results of the mass COVID vaccination campaigns of 2021 began to come in last summer, it seemed, at least to Berenson, that we were falling short. The first studies came in from Israel, which had vaccinated its population early. Out of Tel Aviv we learned that the vaccines did not offer perfect protection, as hoped. In fact, they were only fractionally as good as natural immunity in preventing future infections, although they did reduce their severity somewhat.

Then we learned that what protection the vaccines did offer didn’t last for years as hoped, but waned after a

(continued on page 6)

PRI's special gift to you . . .

Jesus the Bridegroom

In *Jesus the Bridegroom*, Brant Pitre taps into the wells of Jewish Scripture and tradition and unlocks the secrets of what is arguably the most well-known symbol of the Christian faith: the cross of Christ. In this thrilling exploration, Pitre shows how the suffering and death of Jesus was far more than a tragic Roman execution. Instead, the Passion of Christ was the fulfillment of ancient Jewish prophecies of a wedding when the God of the universe would wed himself to humankind in an everlasting nuptial covenant.

You may have read his earlier book, *Jesus, and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*. If so, then you are familiar with Pitre's engaging style, and insightful explanations that are thoroughly rooted in Scripture. Well, he's brought even more powerful insights to us in this wonderful book.

To be sure, you and I and most Christians are familiar with the apostle Paul's teaching that Christ is the 'Bridegroom,' and the Church is the 'Bride.' But what does this really mean? And what would ever possess Paul to compare the death of Christ to the love of a husband for his wife? If you had been at the Crucifixion, with Jesus hanging there dying, is that how you would have described it? How could a first-century Jew like Paul, who knew how brutal Roman crucifixions were, have ever compared the execution of Jesus to a wedding? And why does he refer to this as the "great mystery" (Ephesians 5:32)?

As Pitre shows, the key to unlocking this mystery can be found by going back to Jewish Scripture and tradition and seeing the entire history of salvation, from Mount Sinai to Mount Calvary, as a divine love story between Creator and creature, between God and Israel, between Christ and his bride—a story that comes to its climax on the wood of a Roman cross.

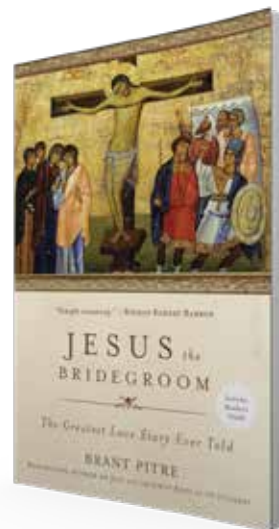
In the pages of *Jesus, the Bridegroom*, dozens of familiar passages in the Bible—the Exodus, the Song of Songs, the Wedding at Cana, the Woman at the Well, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and even the Second Coming at the End of Time—are suddenly transformed before our eyes. Indeed, when seen in the light of Jewish Scripture and tradition, the life of Christ is nothing less than the greatest love story ever told.

But don't just take my word for it. See what Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia says::

"Brant Pitre has a wonderful gift for blending insight, scholarship, and an elegant, appealing style. The result is an extraordinary encounter with Jesus Christ, the meaning of his mission, and the spousal nature of God's love for humanity and Christ's love for the Church."

What's more, the book is composed of seven chapters, so if you start at the beginning of March. And read one chapter each week, you'll finish this beautiful Lenten reflection just in time to celebrate Easter Sunday!

I'm sure you'll want to add this to your Catholic library at home, and possibly even give one as a St. Valentine's Day gift! You can do so with your gift of \$50 or more. Please see the reply form that came with this PRI Review.



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Jesus the Bridegroom

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Pandemia, *continued*

few months. The Israelis were soon having to line up for a third booster shot, and there was talk of a fourth. Then there were the troubling reports of myocarditis—heart inflammation—in children. Not many cases, in total, but enough so that Taiwan and several Nordic countries have put the brakes on vaccinating children and adolescents.

Censored by Twitter

Berenson, following the science as always, faithfully passed this disquieting news on to his hundreds of thousands of followers. Social media exploded. Fauci, who had once promised the vaccine would end COVID once and for all, attacked his views. President Biden’s spokesperson Jen Psaki piled on. *The Atlantic* published an article calling Berenson “The Wrongest Man in America.” And Twitter, without warning, suspended his account for supposedly putting out “misinformation about Covid.”

This time Elon Musk couldn’t save him.

Alex Berenson is not the first truth-teller to be kicked off of social media for questioning the orthodoxies of the COVID age, but he may be among the first to sue Twitter. Everyone who is concerned about free speech should hope he wins.

Despite the rampant censorship on social media, it is still possible to publish a book in this country. And that is what he has done with *Pandemia*, subtitled *How Coronavirus Hysteria Took Over Our Government, Rights and Lives*.

Berenson is relentless in his criticism of Big Pharma’s reckless pursuit of profits, and incensed that cynical politicians put their own interests

ahead of the public’s. But where I found him particularly insightful is in explaining the pandemic of fear that still has many Americans in their grip.

As he writes, “Most Americans think that Covid is far more deadly than it actually is.” And the reason is that the media, in all its iterations—online, print, broadcast—not only failed to tell the truth about Covid but has actively promoted fear.

Behind the Hysteria

Why were those who controlled Information (with a capital “I”) all in for the pandemic?

Why wouldn’t they be? The pandemic gave the world’s largest companies—Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and especially Amazon—an unbeatable advantage. As Berenson writes, it created a “world in which people had to rely on the internet to connect socially, for work, and to shop.”

Lockdowns, school closures, social distancing and all the other things that kept people apart in the age of COVID was a great boon for these companies, since people could only connect through streams of electrons that—mostly—flowed through the platforms of these same companies.

The lockdowns sent new customers flooding to their websites, their traffic increased, and their stocks soared. Why would they ever voluntarily give up the near monopolies that the pandemic had awarded them? Why would they ever want the lockdowns to end?

Berenson was never propagating “misinformation about Covid,” as Twitter and others claimed. But he certainly was threatening their bottom line.

“ The pandemic gave the world’s largest companies—Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and especially Amazon—an unbeatable advantage.

We are reaching the end of the worst public health disaster in American history. I am not talking about the coronavirus itself, which—thanks to China—we will be living with forever. I am talking about the hysterical, suffocating, overbearing, dictatorial and, yes, deadly response to it by those we once trusted.

The courts will overturn the mandates, those at high risk will get the vaccine, therapeutic drugs will be approved, and, best of all, more and more of us will have robust natural immunity that last a lifetime.

“We should be done with Covid,” Berenson writes in his conclusion to *Pandemia*. “I don’t mean that we should have no cases or deaths. Zero Covid was always a fantasy. We have never come close to eliminating influenza, the most obvious comparison for Sars-Cov-2. Why would we think we could eradicate a respiratory virus that can survive in animals, is highly contagious, and can infect people anywhere in the world?”

Done with Covid. My family and I are certainly ready to be done. How about yours?

Forced Infanticide Case in Argentina

BY PROF. FRED A. NAZAR

Jane¹ was 21 years old and had a 2-year-old daughter when she became pregnant a second time. She was living with her uncle and his wife, who had taken her in as a child when her mother had abandoned her.

On August 23, 2021 Jane went to a public hospital in the city of Tartagal, Argentina, intending to have an abortion. Dr. Miranda Lucía Ruiz ordered a routine sonogram and determined that she was over 22 weeks pregnant and that the baby had “a normal heartbeat” and showed “normal fetal activity.”

The following day Dr. Vidal, another doctor at the hospital who was opposed to abortion, told her that at her stage of pregnancy, the risk of an abortion to the mother was much higher than the risk of a full-term delivery.²

He refused to have anything to do with an abortion and referred her back to Dr. Ruiz. But he also phoned Jane’s uncle and urged him to deter his niece from going through with it.

The uncle immediately called the hospital and was able to get Jane on the phone. He told her that they would help her raise her baby, or she could give her up for adoption.

Jane agreed but then dropped a bombshell. She said the doctor had already made her take some pills and ordered her to stay at the hospital because of the risk of hemorrhages. These turned out to be abortion pills.

Her uncle contacted a pro-life town councilor named Claudia Subelza, the head of the local Childhood, Adolescence and Family office, similar to Child Protective Services in the United States.

Once Jane assured Claudia that she wanted to keep the baby and would refuse any more abortion pills, Claudia began spreading the news of Jane’s situation on social media to put pressure on the hospital to cease further action that might harm Jane’s baby.

There was still time to administer medications that would reverse the effect of the abortion pills and save Jane’s baby. That’s not what happened.

Within hours, Jane was calling Claudia in despair. “They are taking me to the operating room to perform an abortion,” she sobbed.

Claudia called the hospital director, a Dr. Santiago Payo, and asked him to delay the procedure, pointing out that Argentinian law does not allow an abortion at six months. In fact, there are no circumstances where an abortion is ever allowed in that country after 14 weeks.

Dr. Payo rejected her request, saying that their actions were “protected by the law.” He even falsely claimed the 14-week limit was no longer valid. He said that Jane as an adult, had come to them requesting an abortion, and that the abortion would be done.

Not long after, Jane was on the phone with her uncle, telling him that

the doctors had already aborted her. She had been quickly given an epidural which paralyzed her from the waist down and performed a c-section. She was awake during the abortion, she told Claudia, and was able to see her baby girl, Milagros, being born and “handled.”³

“Please let me hold my baby,” she had begged Dr. Ruiz. But Ruiz refused and quickly took Milagros away. From a distance, Jane heard her baby girl cry once and then, silence. She never heard Milagros again.⁴

The Argentinian government has refused to take action against the doctor, who has not been charged with a crime. She remains free to carry on her grisly trade.

Claudia, the head of the local Childhood, Adolescence and Family office, says that what happened to Jane’s baby was not an abortion, but infanticide. It was not a murder in the womb but outside the womb.

On September 9, the minister of health of the province of Salta, Dr. Juan José Esteban, held a press conference at which he denied that Dr. Ruiz, who is one of his employees, had committed infanticide.⁵

But the evidence shows otherwise. Milagros was delivered alive and murdered outside the womb. Jane, for her part, was forced to watch while her child was taken away to be put to death.

¹ I am using a pseudonym to protect her identity.

² Reardon DC, Coleman PK. Short and long term mortality rates associated with first pregnancy outcome: population register based study for Denmark 1980-2004. 2012 Medical science monitor : international medical journal of experimental and clinical research, 18(9), PH71–PH76. <https://doi.org/10.12659/msm.883338>

³ <https://www.eltribuno.com/salta/nota/2021-8-26-0-0-0-incalificable-denuncian-que-le-hicieron-un-aborto-con-6-meses-de-gestacion>

⁴ WhatsApp interview September 21, 2021.

⁵ <https://www.eltribuno.com/salta/nota/2021-9-9-11-52-0-esteban-sobre-el-aborto-de-22-semanas-apoyamos-a-la-doctora-en-todo-aspecto-y-esperamos-lo-que-resuelva-la-justicia>



At the Dawn of the New Year, Where Do We Find Our Hope?

by Dr. Christopher Manion, Director of the *Humanae Vitae* Project

In times like these, when evil abounds so manifestly, temptation abounds as well. And no one understands temptation better than Screwtape, the demon whose “Letters from Hell” mysteriously came into the possession of C.S. Lewis some 80 years ago.

Screwtape’s letters chronicle his mission to instruct Wormwood, a novice tempter in his charge. His diabolical “nephew” is a neophyte, and he’s struggling in his efforts to secure the damnation of a young British lad.

As they conspire together, Screwtape reveals to his pupil a secret that has brought countless souls to Hell:

“The Enemy [Almighty God] would therefore have them continually concerned either with eternity (which means being concerned with Him) or with the Present—either meditating on their eternal union with, or separation from, Himself, or else obeying the present voice of conscience, bearing the present cross, receiving the present grace, giving thanks for the present pleasure.”

God gives us the present, in which to act in love and to long for the eternal. Today we can do nothing to change the past (which is frozen) or the temporal future (which is full of unrealities).

Hence: “Our business is to get them away from the eternal, and from the Present,” Screwtape explains. Tempt them to wallow in the past if you find it productive, Worm-

wood, but “it is far better to make them live in the future.”

Why? Because the future can incite the fullness of fear. So Screwtape hectors Wormwood— “fan the flames!”

And yes, fear abounds. Which China Virus variant will come next? Will there be lockdowns? Travel passports? Inflation? Riots?

No, conjecture is not our calling. We are called to act, one day at a time. “Live each day as though it is your last,” Father Seamus said some years back – “and one day, you’ll be right!”

Our Calling Is Eternal, But Our Time Is Now

Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.

—Saint Augustine

When evil abounds, there’s a lot to be angry about. Yes, righteous anger is justified—but our love of God and everything good inspires us to respond with courage. And we do so not by living in Screwtape’s future, but by doing our work that God has given us to perform today.

At PRI, our work is cut out for us. When we receive pleas from crisis pregnancy centers around the world, we provide them with ultrasound machines that are crucial to the survival of so many unborn children.

We teach the technicians who use them to treat expectant mothers. Our videos and newsletters educate the young in dozens of countries, and our Latin American team trains and coordinates pro-life advocates throughout the continent.

Here at home we advocate for the heartbeat bills that Planned Parenthood detests. With your help and support, we are using every available social media channel to tell the world of the beauty that glows in the beating heart of every unborn child.

And we do that faithfully, one day at a time.

As we work, we wait—yes, “hopefully.” Hope is, after all, a Theological Virtue. In that spirit we ponder the words of Father Paul Scalia when he presided over the funeral Mass of Judge Robert Bork: “Bob was a hopeful man. Of course, he wasn’t an optimist.”

And as we hope, we plan. As Screwtape bitterly admits, “To be sure, the Enemy (God) wants men to think of the Future too—just so much as is necessary for now planning the acts of justice or charity which will probably be their duty tomorrow. The duty of planning the morrow’s work is today’s duty.”

So we work, we plan, we pray. And we hope – that Screwtape and Wormwood will be gnashing their teeth as millions of unborn souls are welcomed into the world and destined for eternity with God, his angels, and his saints.



Hope from South of the Border: Rise of Chile's Pro-Life Candidate

by Carlos Polo, Director, PRI Latin American Office

There has been a lot of bad news for the pro-life cause and for democracy south of the Rio Grande in recent years. Radical leftist presidents have been “elected” amid widespread accusations of ballot fraud. Abortion has been forced on the populations of Mexico and Argentina. The region has been wracked by violent protests in the streets, and it has faced both health and economic crises.

Chile is no exception. For decades, Chile has been under attack by the international left, even as the model they want to impose on the country has been a dismal failure in Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Argentina. The only thing that communism is good at producing is tyranny.

Ray of Southern Sunshine

There is good news from south of the border, however. The presidential election of November 21 in Chile produced a happy result. The pro-life candidate, José Antonio Kast, came in first in a crowded first-round vote.

And when I say he is pro-life, I mean it. He is not only a practicing Catholic who is happily married to the love of his life, but he is the proud father of nine children. José Antonio Kast dared to be about as politically incorrect as you can get.

Yet, Kast received 27.9 percent of the votes in the first round of voting, pushing the young leftist Gabriel Boric into second place with 25.8 percent.

These results reflect a surprising political shift. Just two years ago, radical leftist groups set fire to several subway stations in Santiago de Chile, the nation's capital in protest of the cost of riding the subway. The riots destabilized the government of then-President Sebastián Piñera for two months. Ultimately, the radicals forced a plebiscite on whether or not to call a Constituent Assembly.

In October 2020, 78 percent of the population voted for the drafting of a new Constitution. As a result, 155 constituent assembly members were elected in May 2021, and the large majority of them represented various leftist groups.

On the same date, the Communist Party won the mayoral elections in the capital for the first time in its history—a victory that had not even been achieved during the government of the openly Communist Salvador Allende.

The results of this leftist takeover were as predictable as they were disastrous. Chile's stock market fell by 10 percent, and the Chilean peso was devalued against the dollar. Everything seemed to indicate that Chile was already destined to be another version of “21st century socialism.” Or as we say in Peru, welcome to Venezuela.

But José Antonio Kast's first-round victory cast doubt on that gloomy prediction.

I count Jose Kast as a personal friend. He is an intelligent, courageous and optimistic man. It is no accident that his campaign slogan has been #AtréveteChile (“Chile, be Darling!”). Whoever reads the more than 800 proposals of Kast's 2021 government program will have no doubt of the magnitude of his boldness.

Pro-Life, Pro-Family

Kast's current platform includes a clear pro-life agenda: “We defend life from conception to natural death. All human beings have inalienable rights that no person or majority can take away. We will repeal the law passed during the government of former President Bachelet that makes abortion possible.”

Kast also puts the family first. For Kast, giving parents the right to define the teaching and education for their children “includes the choice of values, and civic, religious and sexual education.”

He also endorses a series of public policies to promote families, including marriage preparation courses and a plan to increase Chile's sagging birth rate with tax breaks that increase with the number of children that a family has.

A victory by Kast, not certain as of this writing, would mark a crucial reversal of the revolutionary tide that the leftists want to engulf the hemisphere and be a welcome victory for Life and the family.



European Leaders Push Darkness But People Are Bringing the Light

by Carlos Beltramo, Director, PRI European Office

Europe is in turmoil. And it seems that, in many ways, it is on the wrong track, after the Matic report (which we reported on here¹) and the resolution in which the European Parliament declared that being pro-life is committing gender-based violence (which we reported on in the November-December 2021 PRI Review).

After the European Union threatened Hungary over its law preventing the promotion of homosexuality in school children (which we reported here²), now the same European Union is attacking Poland, which was fined 1 million euros a day for an internal judicial problem in the country. This is an essential step in the battle for life in Europe: Poland is one of the most pro-life countries in the European Union, and the European Parliament's legislation is increasingly anti-life.

To stop the advance of EU anti-life laws, Poland has created a special Court of Justice that can prevent the imposition of EU laws against Polish culture and. This special tribunal is the reason for the fine by the European Union: progressive bureaucrats are unwilling to let any country resist their policies, including those that actively promote abortion.

Efforts by the European Union to erase European culture continue. In November, an internal document from the bureaucrats in Brussels, accidentally released, asked workers to replace "Christmas" with "Holidays"

in seasonal greetings. The document also suggests avoiding Christian names when giving hypothetical examples in speeches. Instead of "Mary and John are an international couple," EU employees should say, "Malika and July are an international couple."

This document caused an eruption. Politicians from many countries criticized this supreme display of the cancel culture that tries to make us forget that Europe's roots are Christian. Even Pope Francis spoke very clearly about it, drawing a comparison to dictatorships of the past that we Europeans do not want to repeat. On his return trip from Greece, he said the following:

Pope Francis Speaks

"You are referring to the European Union document without 'Christmas.' This is an anachronism. This is what many dictatorships have tried to do in history: think of Napoleon, think of the Nazi and communist dictatorship; it is a way of diluted laicity, distilled water. This is one thing that didn't work out throughout history.

"But this makes me think of something that...I believe is necessary: the European Union must take in hand the ideals of the founding fathers, which were ideals of unity, of greatness.

"Be attentive not to make way for ideological colonization. This could divide countries and [make] the European Union fall. The European Union

must respect each country as it is structured inside, the variety of countries, and not want to standardize."³

These strong words and other similar reactions caused the Brussels bureaucrats to step back. Commissioner Helena Dalli withdrew the internal document and said she needs to study it further.⁴

Spain is another place where there is a reaction, and where the PRI office in Europe is actively involved. Recently a new platform was launched in Madrid called NEOS. NEOS is an acronym for North-East-West (Oeste)-South, alluding to the cardinal points that should guide the life of society according to a moral compass.

NEOS is composed of seven working groups with different themes. One of them defends life in Spain, especially against abortion and euthanasia. Another is Global Threats, in which PRI is closely involved.

NEOS is planning a meeting in Brussels for the middle of 2022 to generate more pressure on bureaucrats. The leader of this initiative is Jaime Mayor Oreja, former Minister of the Spanish Government, and many other politicians, social leaders, scientists are involved. The launch in Madrid was attended by more than 800 people, eager to collaborate in this field in Old Europe, which needs us.

These are times of darkness (coming from Brussels) and also of hope. The struggle continues.

¹ <https://www.pop.org/will-abortion-throughout-all-nine-months-of-pregnancy-be-declared-a-human-right/>

² <https://www.pop.org/the-heroic-hungarians-are-doing-everything-right/>

³ <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/249798/full-text-pope-francis-in-flight-press-conference-from-greece>

⁴ <https://www.newsweek.com/european-commission-scrap-holiday-period-term-after-claims-its-canceling-christmas-1654681>

PRI in the News



■ Mosher Addresses Costs of Pandemic Lockdowns

THE WANDERER—PRI President Steve Mosher spoke about the high costs of pandemic lockdowns in an address for the annual Catholic Identity Conference, organized by *The Remnant* newspaper last fall in Pittsburgh.¹

“Steven Mosher is a true warrior for the faith and family life,” according to the *Wanderer* article by Fr. Kevin M. Cusick. “He has fought the overpopulation lies and myths in the trenches of our godless society for years.

“He spoke about the so-called pandemic and reminded us that the lockdowns do not prevent spread of disease except intensify passing infection within families. Other problems come from lockdowns: alcoholism, suicide, domestic violence, poverty, drug addiction, and more deaths from lack of treatment for heart attacks, cancer, and other health issues.”

■ Book Validates Mosher’s Theory on Covid Lab Escape

QUADRANT—PRI President Steve Mosher was one of the first to publish the theory of COVID-19 leaking from a lab in Wuhan, an explanation being explored in *What Really Happened in Wuhan*, by journalist Sharri Markson.²

“The most likely explanation for COVID-19 is that it is a genetically modified virus—a process referred to as “gain of function”— which accidentally escaped from the virology lab in Wuhan. That’s the case the two-time Walkley winner Sharri Markson makes, and does so persuasively,” according to Quadrant Online, an Australian news site.

“It’s worth noting that Steven W. Mosher published the same theory in February 2020 in the *New York Post*, amplified by Fox News host Bret Baier as well as David Ignatius and Josh Rogin in the *Washington Post*,” the article reported.

■ Mosher: Science Says Kids Don’t Need the Vaccine

LIFESITENEWS—Despite the efforts of the legacy media and the Biden administration to hide it, the China virus poses virtually zero risk to kids, according to a recent article by PRI President Steve Mosher.³

“The vast majority of children who contract it will come down with no more than the sniffles, if they show any symptoms at all,” he wrote.

“Even better, once they are exposed to it, their immune systems will ever after be alert not only for the original invader, but for nearly all of the variants that it spins off over time. This robust immunity will probably last their entire lives.”

The mRNA shot—far from being helpful—may harm children by “short-circuiting” the natural immunity to the novel virus, Mosher wrote.

¹ <https://thewandererpress.com/catholic/news/our-catholic-faith/catholic-identity-confirmed-at-conference/>

² <https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/china/2021/11/ten-reasons-why-the-lab-leak-theory-rings-true/>

³ <https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/the-science-behind-why-kids-should-not-get-and-dont-need-the-covid-shot/>

The Perfect Way to Keep Your New Year’s Resolution

Happy 2022! Are you having fun making resolutions that will make you feel good? Are you looking for resolutions you’ll stick to all year?

Here’s a perfect way to keep your resolution and have make one that’s good for others, too: Become the newest member of PRI’s Circle for Life!

Automating your monthly donation helps you keep your resolu-

tion and helps Population Research Institute.

When we know how much money we will have each month, we can better plan how many ultrasounds we can supply to care centers and hospitals in dire need, plan our research investigations, and know how many educational materials we can produce in the coming year as we keep our

commitment to promote and support the cause of life.

You’ll still continue to receive the PRI Review, six times a year, to keep you up to date on what your support means to people around the world: in China, India, Peru, Kenya, Latin America...worldwide!

That’s a resolution that’s easy to keep, all year!

From the Countries



GERMANY

Germany Marks New Decline in Abortions

Abortions in Germany have fallen by 8.5 percent from 2020 to 2021, according to new government figures reported by the Catholic News Agency.¹

“The German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) reported on September 28 that around 22,900 abortions took place in the second quarter of 2021, compared to roughly 25,100 in the same period last year,” according to the article.

The decline follows a drop of 7 percent in the first quarter of 2021, when some 24,600 abortions were reported, compared to 26,500 the year before.

According to CNA Deutsch, CNA’s German-language news partner, no clear cause has been given for the downward trend.

Germany, the European Union’s most populous country with 83 million people, permits abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Approximately 100,000 abortions were reported in the pandemic year of 2020, with the decline beginning in 2001.



MEXICO

Thousands March For Life in Mexico

Pro-life protestors by the thousands took to the streets across Mexico to promote “pro-woman and pro-

life” and protest the recent Supreme Court decision decriminalizing abortion, according to Catholic News Service.²

In at least 89 cities marches were quickly organized with the support of the Church, said Auxiliary Bishop Alfonso Miranda Guardiola of Monterrey, secretary-general of the Mexican bishops’ conference.

“We hope this is the start of an awakening in our population,” Bishop Miranda told Catholic News Service. “(It’s) the defeat of the spiral of death and silence, the awakening of the silent majority in favor of life.”

Organizers estimated up to 1 million protested nationwide and that 500 buses arrived in Mexico City with protestors from the outlying states.



VATICAN CITY

Pope: Pharmacists Called to Serve Life

In a recent address to a group of Italian pharmacists, Pope Francis said that conscientious objection to abortion and euthanasia is integral to the fidelity of the medical profession, according to the *National Catholic Register*.³

“On an individual level, the pharmacist, each of you, uses medicinal substances which can, however, turn into poisons. Here, it is a question of exercising constant vigilance, so that the objective is always the patient’s life in its entirety,” the Pope said.

“You are always at the service of human life,” he said. “And this may in some cases involve conscientious objection, which is not infidelity, but, on the contrary, fidelity to your profession, if validly motivated. You have to stay in a confessional to understand the very hard price of this.”

The Pope gave his remarks to a congress organized by the Italian Society of Hospital Pharmacy during a meeting in the Vatican’s Clementine Hall.



RUSSIA

Russia Joins Global Pro-Life Initiative

The Russian government has joined the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Women’s Health and Protection of the Family, according to the Center for Family & Human Rights.⁴

On the one-year anniversary of the historic pro-life agreement, U.S. Congressional pro-life leaders introduced a resolution to affirm the declaration principles. The pro-life agreement was the first time that a broad coalition of countries jointly rejected attempts by the United Nations to promote abortion as an international right.

“When other nations or international agencies interject unhealthy and harmful policies upon you that compromise life, family, and your own sovereignty — they must be challenged,” said Valerie Huber, president of the Institute for Women’s Health.

¹ <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/249140/germany-records-new-decline-in-number-of-abortions>

² <https://www.catholicnews.com/awakening-of-the-silent-majority-pro-lifers-take-to-streets-in-mexico/>

³ <https://www.ncregister.com/cna/pope-francis-defends-conscientious-objection-to-abortion-euthanasia-in-health-care>

⁴ https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/russia-joins-global-pro-life-initiative/