

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

July - August, 2020★ Vol. 30, Number 03

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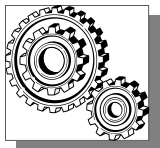
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**If you would like to be
added to our mailing
list, please call
655-0280, email, or
contact our website
(see back page)**



**In the
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**Where are we with the
COVID—19 Pandemic?**

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

Do Not Remain Silent!

By
Lauston Stephens

For the secret of evil is even now at work: but there is one who is keeping back the evil till he is taken out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7 BBE)

Recently, I wrote the letter below to my local newspaper. The incident occurred beyond the distribution area of the paper and the individual will probably never see it, but others will. We must not remain silent in the face of lies nor other evil.

“As I write this, news is breaking about a deadly attack on a synagogue in New York state, but I’ve been thinking about it since Thursday when I saw someone carrying a sign on a rural road in New York state. The sign read, “Jews want your guns.” Now, why should this fellow American be so timid in exercising his freedom of speech that he chose a rural road where almost no one would see his sign?

Perhaps he doesn’t know that Jewish American Aaron Solomon was among the patriots at Bunker Hill defending his freedom of

speech. Perhaps he doesn’t know that Jewish patriots, Abraham Levy and Phillip Russell, suffered along with George Washington and other Americans at Valley Forge.

Perhaps he doesn’t know that there are over 5,000 Jewish graves in Arlington National Cemetery. After all, until 1918, only crosses were used to mark graves. [Our bad.]

As well as Jewish members of the Union Army buried in Arlington, there is also Moses Ezekiel who was among the Confederate ranks. Not everyone in a group will have the same perspective. Yes, there are Americans who advocate tighter gun control. There is no reason to think that none of them are Jewish, especially when we consider the rise in hate crimes. There is also no reason to think that all people of any demographic hold the same view on an issue or that those who do should not exercise their freedom of assembly.

If he knew of all the Jewish people who have defended both his First and Second

Amendment rights, the sign maker may have had more courage to express his opinion. He also may have reconsidered his opinion.”

Some might respond to overt anti-Semitism or other evil by mocking the sign maker: “He chose a rural road because he wasn’t sure he had spelled all the words correctly.” That response socially isolates the man who is probably already socially isolated and makes the mocker feel superior. It does not refute the claim of the sign nor will such sophistry work against others embracing the claim.

Better a response that embraces the sign maker, in this case as a fellow American with common rights, building a bridge rather than a barrier. Refute the claim with readily available facts. Identify the claim as opinion, not reality. Will he abandon the lie? Perhaps, perhaps not, but you have worked together with “one who is keeping back the evil.”

Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Assembly in Rutland, VT

**“Keep calm and carry on.”
British Government World War II slogan**

Did God Push the PAUSE (and Repent) Button?

By
Kay Trudell

Looks like nothing will ever be quite the same as it was before the Corona virus, doesn't it? Because of a virus that most people believe originated in China, and was either intentionally or accidentally unleashed upon the world, it is probably not an exaggeration to say that all human life on the planet has been affected. Just in Vermont, churches were closed for months. You could not go to a sports event, a movie theater, a barber shop or hair salon, a gym, or a social club like the Elks or the American Legion. The Champlain Valley Fair was cancelled for the first time in 100 years. Schools and colleges were closed.

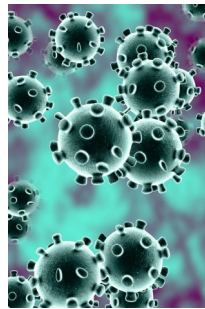
This virus has brought out both the best and the worse in people and institutions. Among the best are our first responders: doctors, nurses, EMTs, police, fire, truckers, sanitation workers, grocery and essential merchandise employees, and benevolent organizations like food banks and the Salvation Army and Samaritan's Purse.

Among the worst were the secular media, the UN and WHO who avoided offend-

ing China at all costs, and politicians who used this pandemic as an excuse to tyrannize and bully their constituents, closing churches and synagogues while allowing liquor stores and gay swingers clubs and abortion clinics to remain open. Actually, I don't really have a problem with allowing the liquor stores to remain open, any more than I have a problem with allowing gun stores and grocery stores to remain open. What I have a huge problem with is that our politicians allowed abortion clinics to continue KILLING unborn babies while at the same time telling us that we had to stay home and isolate ourselves and wear masks and stay out of churches TO SAVE HUMAN LIFE. This is the most gross, cynical, and paradoxical propaganda and manipulation I have seen in years.

When this pandemic first began, perhaps it made sense to go into quarantine because we were told by the national and international medical "experts" that this was a raging firestorm of a plague that might kill millions. No one seemed to know or understand what we were dealing with. As our

government tried to grapple with the lies and misinformation coming from China, we did indeed see people around us getting sick and even dying from Covid-19. That was in the beginning. We were told to isolate to flatten the curve. Four months later, emerging on the other side of this, we are now receiving information daily that in many cases casts doubt on what we were told earlier. That really isn't the biggest problem, however.



The major problem is that the media and politicians in many states used this virus as an excuse to either propagandize or terrorize their own citizens and strip them of many Constitutional and religious liberties and protections in ways I have not seen in my lifetime. The curve is much flatter, but many states are still locked down. Now we are being given different reasons. This was done in mostly liberal states headed by Democratic governors, but also in a few States headed by liberal Republican governors, such as in Vermont.

In the beginning of this, I didn't know any more about it than the next person. I heard it was bad. I heard it would kill millions. I prayed to Jesus and asked Him for protection from this pandemic.

He gave me (this was personal only) two Bible verses which I have trusted for months now. One was, "A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but no evil will come near you." (Psalm 91:7)

The second verse was "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27) I cling to those two verses and trust Jesus. I also pray for my husband, family, church, and community, that the virus would spare them. I know millions of other Christians were praying as well and receiving their own personal Bible verses from God. I have talked with some of them.

Personally, I do not believe God sent this plague upon us. I believe unscrupulous men created it, and then lost control of it. However, I do believe God might have allowed it (not stopped it) as a



"A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but no evil will come near you." (Psalm 91:7)

wakeup call to a planet that is more and more rejecting Him and going its own way. The evidence is before our very eyes. Even as people died around us, we continued to embrace human sacrifice in Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics, spilling the blood of innocent babies even as we begged God to have mercy on us. What a sad group of hypocrites we humans are. I have been thinking that maybe God pushed the PAUSE button on us so we might repent and turn to Him in the midst of this disaster. I know many did, and more people than ever have become open to hearing the Gospel. I have firsthand experience of this during the past several months.

However, the nation as a whole has not repented. A church in Mississippi that had not followed the governor's order forbidding churches to conduct in-person services was burned to the ground one night, and a message spray-painted on the parking lot: "Bet you stay home now, *hypokrits*." That qualifies as a hate crime, by the way. The American Center for Law and Justice, First Liberty, the Thomas Moore Center, and Liberty Counsel are just a few of the law firms involved in many lawsuits on behalf of churches who are suing their states for unconstitutional lockdowns of houses of worship. New

York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio stated that he would like to close his city's churches and synagogues permanently. Several governors, notably in Virginia, Michigan, California, New York and New Jersey, have displayed strong hostility to religion during this epidemic. Jews have also come under attack. Remember that Jesus said as He was persecuted so His followers would be.

In an essay mailed to supporters at the end of May, titled "Satan's Open War on Churches", Mat Staver, lead attorney for Liberty Counsel, stated the following: "As we approach Pentecost Sunday, the traditional birth date of Christ's Church, one thing is clear --- Satan has declared open war on America's churches. Over the past several months, governors and local officials have taken it upon themselves to deny Americans their First Amendment right to religious freedom, demanding church closures . . ." and arresting, citing, imposing fines, and threatening pastors (and a few rabbis) who refused to comply. He went on to say: "As of this writing (May 27) four pastors we now represent have been served with CRIMINAL complaints and three have been threatened with jail time for opening their churches. One entire congregation we represent in Kentucky was put under the equivalent of 14 days house

arrest through an arbitrary forced quarantine order, causing several members to lose their jobs, even though not one attendee had been tested, let alone had tested positive, for the corona virus. A church we do not represent (in a lawsuit) in Holly Springs, Mississippi was firebombed . . . the explosion leveled most of the building and the words "Bet you stay home now *hypokrits*" were spray painted across the parking lot. The city of Chicago threatened two Romanian churches we represent with SUMMARY ABATEMENT --- a process through which the city could bulldoze the church building should pastors or church members continue meeting in person on the church property." I would note that this is what Communist China does to churches. Staver goes on to say that we Americans need to fight for our churches (his words) because they are being persecuted by the thousands. Liberty Counsel is currently defending persecuted pastors and congregations all over the country, and "providing legal counsel to (many American) churches shocked by the oppression of their religious freedom. We have been deluged by calls for help. Who would have ever thought this could happen in America? With our legal guidance, over 3,000 California churches and several thousand others nationwide will open on Pentecost Sunday,

with or without their governor's permission."

There are numerous signs that tell us we are living in the last days as foretold in Scripture. We must be like the five wise virgins. We must have the oil in our lamps ready, for we know not the hour when Jesus will return with a shout and catch His followers up to be with Him as hell is unleashed upon the earth. Churches that have neglected teaching their modern congregations about the rapture and the End Times need to start preaching about these events once again, for they are upon us. The rapture is called "the Blessed Hope." This hope must be preached as churches reopen! God allowed the PAUSE button to be pushed, but America as a nation has not truly repented, although individual people have repented and been saved. "But," you say, "There will be a great revival." To that I say, what are YOU personally doing to bring it about? How many souls have you tried to win to Jesus during this troubled time? The time is ripe and people are open to hearing the Gospel. With how many people have you shared last days teaching, and the truth of salvation, or are you hiding behind your mask? Just get out there and DO IT!

Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Vibrant Church in South Burlington

**"A life lived in fear is a life half lived."
Baz Luhrmann, Australian film director**

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What can I do?



*Faith without
works is dead*
James 2:17

e-mail : camnetvt@gmail.com

www.christianactionministry.com

"Why did I get a printed copy and an email copy of the last CAM newsletter?"

Over the past few years, we have received several requests to have our newsletter sent by email. This was an item we discussed in the fall of 2019 and decided to give it a try with the January - February 2020 issue. There were pros and cons to the idea.

Pro: It would be easier to get the issue out, there would be less postage and printing costs, recipients could easily forward a specific issue to friends they thought might be interested, either by printing and mailing it or forwarding the email.

Con: Not everyone has email and they need a printed copy. With the large amount of email from all sources that is currently sent to our recipients that do have email, would our email newsletter be deleted before being read, and defeat our purpose of *"Involving the Christian in Community Action"*?

We decided to try a trial run of the email option with a small group of our mailing list and find out their response - would they prefer the email edition or the printed edition. If you received both, you were in that small group. We intend to do another group with our July - August 2020 issue. The responses we receive will give us the answer. Call us at (802) 655-0280 or email us at camnetvt@christianactionministry.com and let us know if you prefer receiving a printed copy or an email copy or both (but your choice can be changed to any of the three methods at a later date). For our records (which we do not share) we will need your full name and address as it appears on our mailing label to you and the email address you would like us to use if you want the email option. Thanks in advance for your input. If you would like to support our ministry, you can send a tax-deductible contribution to CAM Network, Inc., PO Box 1067, Williston, VT 05495.

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✉ CAM Network, Inc.
PO Box 1067
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(802) 598-3202
**Call to confirm date
Next Meetings**

July 6, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.
August 3, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference
In Vermont!**