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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.” John Paul II.

Or, in the alternative

“We have met the enemy and he is us.” Pogo Possum.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY:

So much has already been written about this day, and while there is much to celebrate over the 50 year period, there is also much to mourn, especially global warming. Just in our own backyard, the Gulf of Mexico is 4 degrees warmer than last year, promising the potential for a record storm and hurricane season.

National Geographic does a nice job of articulating the major Earth related events of the past 50 years. I won't list them all, but, as you will see, it's about a 50/50 mix of the good and the bad:

'70, Natl. Environmental Policy Act; 72, Clean Water Act; 72, DDT ban; 72, defending marine mammals; 73, endangered animals act; 79, 3 mile island; 80, super fund; 85, discovery, ozone hole; 86, Chernobyl; 88, greenhouse effect detected; 89, Exxon Valdez; 90, Ivory ban; 95, Amazon forest loss; 95, Bald Eagle recovery; 05, Katrina; 06, An Inconvenient Truth; 06, honey bee colony collapse; 08, electric cars; 10, Deep water horizon oil spill; 11, Fukushima Disaster; 12, Hurricane Sandy; 15, Paris Climate Accord; 19, Australian wildfires.

Just reviewing the list above and the unresolved topics noted, the next 50 years hold the promise to be much worse than the past 50.

GEORGIA ON MY MIND:

Governor Brian Kemp, what are you thinking and/or drinking? Starting this Friday he has decreed that the reopening of gyms, hair and nail salons, bowling alleys and tattoo will be permitted. Oh, great! Every barbell is certain to be properly wiped down before the next user, same with the bikes and treadmills. And, the bowling alleys- Yikes!! – always crowded, but with the pent up demand - mobbed, and how can the local Dunkin Donuts team refrain from the high fives when a teammate rolls a strike? As Dr. Fauci said, “That could be setting us back. It certainly isn’t going to be helpful.” Well anyway, Gov. Brian isn’t through yet because next Monday restaurants can begin dine in service. But still, not a word of support for the golfers who ply their trade in those frighteningly cramped quarters on the golf course.

Now here’s something that has gotten de minimis press coverage. I’m assuming Georgia, in allowing restaurants will do the 50% occupancy standard. Before things got really scary that sounded pretty practical to me, until this tiny article out of China. There is this one case where the authorities were able to very

accurately document how one person infected nine others in a dining room. Some of the infected were at the same table- understandable, but others from a neighboring, properly distanced table did not get infected, while customers at an equally distanced table did get infected. How come? So easy when you think about it – the air conditioning system. The authorities were able to trace the air flows of the system which totally explained why the virus particles came to infect those that they did. In so many words, dining in a 50% seating only restaurant is absolutely no guarantee that you are dining in safety.

Georgia’s attempt to emerge from lockdown is going to be an interesting, if not fatal, experiment. Tomas Pueyo writes a lengthy and scholarly (all the graphs give me a headache) about what he calls, “The Hammer and the Dance.” Bottom line, the hammer is the lockdown phase of what we are all experiencing. The Dance is the premature jumping for joy in which the citizens of Georgia can engage in beginning Friday. Pueyo makes the analogy of sharks teeth – the virus finally

peaking and dropping way down because of the hammer and then rocketing upwards again because of the dance.

NURSING HOMES REDUX:

“Oh, please just shoot me rather than cart me off to one of these places” – a statement many of us should make, if we haven’t already thought of it. 15,400 facilities “care for” (deserves to be in quotes because –not really) 1.5MM residents. More than a half million residents are in facilities rated as average or much below average on the government’s 5 star rating system. Virtually all of these facilities are under huge financial strain; thin profitability to begin with, highly leveraged, and, for a typical 72 bed facility, having to spend an extra \$4,000 per day for protective equipment and additional nurses to cope with the coronavirus. To make matters worse, one of the highest profitability sectors in the nursing homes is taking care of rehab patients who have had elective surgery, which is rare to non existent until the contagion lessens. And, finally, the agony for patients and family as no

visitors are permitted until conditions improve dramatically.

NEWS ON THE TREATMENT FRONT:

Hydroxychloroquine (H) which has been touted by Governor Cuomo and the president, as well as being used in hundreds of hospitals around the country has just received a failing grade in an analysis of its use in VA hospitals. Regretably, we are informed that it was, “Not a rigorous experiment” whatever that means. In any event, 368 patients were treated with H and/or H and azithromycin (A). 28% who were given H died versus 11% who just received standard care. 22% of those getting H&A died also. Not good news for these highly promoted “remedies”.

Last bit of unsettling news comes from two MDs I just saw interviewed. There is a strong possibility this coming fall and winter may be much worse than it is now as Flu season shares the spotlight with Covid- 19 – not a happy prospect.

On a brighter front, The Jupiter, Fl branch of Scripps Research believes they are, “on to something big” in terms of the vaccine search. A briefing is set for late today. At this point I don’t think we need a briefing on a key component, Receptor Binding Domain (RBD), but look forward to a major announcement, again realizing any vaccine is probably 18 months away.

Now here is another press reporting anomaly. Just as there was very light reporting on the previously unspoken dangers of air conditioners in restaurants, there was scant coverage of the fact that the FDA has approved an, at home, nasal swab kit sold by LabCorp. You do a nasal swab at home send it in and wait for the results. It’s said to be a test for the coronavirus so, presumably, it will tell you whether or not you have it. What is unclear is will the test tell you if you have antibodies against the virus. The test is called, Pixel, will have to be prescribed by your doctor and costs \$119, probably not covered by medicare – could be a game changer in accelerating the rate of testing. No information available as to the roll out date.

**A CHANCE FOR SALVATION AND FREEDOM
FROM COVID -19. With thanks to Sam
Kestenbaum**

Friends, are you struggling with your own faith, perhaps feeling abandoned in your hour of need? Well, I have the answer you've been looking for. Come on over to Happy Science.(HS)

At a recent Times Square gathering one of HS ministers intoned, "Doomsday may be coming, but the greatest savior, our master, is here on earth." Hey, this sounds like good stuff, gotta meet this dude.

The focal point of HS is a former Wall Street trader, Ryuho Okawa. He is Japanese and after attending Tokyo University he joined a large trading firm and spent a year in New York. It appears he may also have been trading in LSD because he came to believe he was in contact with wise men from the past, like Buddha and Jesus. They told him he was chosen to redeem the world and who was he to say no?

He returned to Tokyo and began self publishing books which became hits. The more books the more dazzling the tales. Initially he was simply a channel for far-flung spirits. Then, he was a reincarnated Buddha. Eventually he proclaimed himself the supreme deity of this world and his discerning followers agreed.

Okawa taught that life on earth was engineered millions of years ago on venus by the god, El Cantare. This struck so many followers as logical that he would fill stadiums telling them of his revelations. Naturally a bit of theater was necessary to sell his vision. He would leap from a mock UFO, clad in feathery angel wings as smoke machines billowed.

Just as a reflection that he must be on the right track, it is estimated that HS takes in revenues of \$45 million a year. Structured around a pay to progress system of membership, the group is sometimes called Tokyo's answer to Scientology.

The good news for our dear readers is that HS now has an outpost in New York and, best

news of all for \$100 to \$400 you can receive virus-related blessings (don't know if that comes with a money back guarantee) And, even better, beginning this month Happy Science will administer spiritual vaccines remotely. - no 18 month wait.

Your faithful scribe.

PB