

Another Message to My Neighbors in Kansas

By Warren M. Hern

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My previous message two weeks ago was addressed mainly to my cousins and kin in Abilene and Salina but also to my neighbors in Kansas. This message is addressed to all my neighbors in Kansas, especially to those who have written or called. I will say that I have enjoyed my conversations with people from Salina and Abilene, many of whom have known members of my family for decades (one woman who called was in my Aunt Helen's Sunday School class 75 years ago!).

What I have learned from the many responses to the previous message is that there are two groups of voters in Kansas: those who are seething with anger and fear at Donald Trump and at the spineless national Republican Party for its acceptance of Trump's utter incompetence and corruption; for the Republican Senate's betrayal of the country by supporting Trump's slavish obeisance to Vladimir Putin and other bloodthirsty dictators; by Trump's appalling indifference to the preventable loss of a quarter of a million American lives to the coronavirus pandemic; and those who love Donald Trump, who swallow and believe all his constant lies and psychotic tantrums, who swallow the Kool-Aid of Fox News, who fear a modern America different from the

1940's and 1950's with Jim Crow segregation and systematic oppression of racial and ethnic minorities and of women, and who want Trump to "Make America Great Again" by returning to a time of ignorance and institutional cruelty, to a time of uncontrolled environmental destruction, and to a time of unbridled economic exploitation. They strongly favor religious faith over science and "experts;" they favor "authentic" people like Trump who are vulgar and delight in "breaking the rules" over "politicians" who can't be trusted. They want to go back to the good old times, but many of those times weren't so good. They were cruel and deadly for many people.

One group of Kansas voters understands that Donald Trump is a profoundly disturbed man whose mental illness is obvious and which explains much of his cruelty, sadism, secrecy, harsh authoritarianism and autocratic method. They understand his hatred of the American form of government, which is only an annoying obstacle to his becoming the dictator that he wants to be, and they see his endless and unlimited corruption of everything he touches. The other group includes those who see Trump as Chosen By God to be our sacred leader to whom all mindless loyalty must be given in exchange for pie-in-the-sky promises unconnected to reality, for a country that is torn with racial and ethnic conflicts aggravated by Trump's open racism and which Trump inflames at every point. They love Trump's entertaining but dangerous demonization of the free press, a critical element in a free society, and they love his demonization

of conscientious public officials who are working against Trump's fascist demagoguery to help make everyone safe from a terrifying pandemic that is destroying the national economy and the lives of all Americans.

These are two irreconcilable views of America, and Donald Trump is doing everything he can to turn this conflict into a catastrophic civil war brought about by his own rhetoric, by his defiance and destruction of basic democratic norms, and by his private thugs and terrorists armed with military weapons that he encourages them to buy and use just as he is encouraging them to threaten and harm elected public officials. They love his call for lawless, dictatorial incarceration of his political enemies accompanied by mindless chants of "Lock her up!" It's fun – and deadly. It's out of a third world dictatorship. It's out of Germany in the 1930's.

Among the most alarming tactics is Trump's hostile takeover of a supine, intimidated and unconscious national Republican Party to use as a weapon that supports his anti-American fascism and whose eager tool is Mitch McConnell, who gleefully uses his power to block any legislative assistance to unemployed and homeless Americans who are victims of an uncontrolled pandemic. These victims of Trump's incompetence are most likely to be members of minority groups that Trump hates, but they include poverty-stricken white Americans who believe Trump's racist rantings. McConnell has single-handedly paralyzed the Republican-controlled US Senate and thereby the

American government in his autocratic dance with Chairman Trump. McConnell, thinking it's funny to watch people suffer, joyfully calls himself "the Grim Reaper" of progressive and enlightened legislation that would actually help people. Whatever Democrats pass, McConnell kills.

As I documented in my previous message, Donald Trump is mentally ill and has all the glaring traits of a malignant narcissist and sociopath. He will destroy anyone who gets in his way, and he is destroying the country. He is psychotic and delusional. He seriously tells people to drink or inject poisons like bleach to cure Covid-19. He hosts super-spreader events in the middle of a pandemic including at the White House Rose Garden. There are now more cases of Covid-19 in the White House than in the entire country of Taiwan. He trashes Dr. Anthony Fauci, an internationally known and revered world expert on viral diseases, and other distinguished scientists he dismisses as "idiots." Why? Because Dr. Fauci said he wasn't surprised that Trump contracted the coronavirus while routinely ignoring basic pandemic safety precautions in his own meetings such as the Rose Garden event. What else would you expect?

Trump is running a national death cult. He calls people to die for the economy so he can get re-elected by claiming the free-fall economy is improving. Incredibly, many people are happy to oblige, and they die.

Trump is holding rallies all over the country including Wisconsin where Covid-19 cases and deaths are spiking and

overwhelming medical facilities. Trump is the greatest national vector of this disease in defiance of common sense and local restrictions against large groups. At his rally in Michigan, he incited his armed followers to violence and led the mob with chants of “Lock Her Up!” directed toward the elected governor, Gretchen Whitmer, who was the target of a recent kidnapping plot by terrorists who planned to try her and execute her. This is criminal irresponsibility beyond belief in any elected official much less the president of the United States. Trump’s Michigan rally was a display of pure fascism. He is a fascist demagogue.

Trump appears to encourage the tactics of ISIS, or at least, the Michigan branch of ISIS. The Ku Klux Klan, the Taliban, the violent white supremacists, and the deranged Q-Anon fanatics are cheering for him. He welcomes their embrace. He says he’s happy that they like him. He needs desperately to be liked, including by ruthless dictators, and that’s bad for America. Trump’s desperation for approval by hideous people who wish us death is dangerous for all of us.

Trump’s methods include vilifying and demonizing his political enemies – they are no longer merely competitors for political power or political adversaries - while trashing the electoral process and the very existence of free elections since he knows he can’t win this one. He refuses, incredibly, to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, the most basic element of a free democratic society, if he loses the election. Trump has announced that he plans to corrupt the system by installing, with the

indispensable help of Mitch McConnell, a puppet Supreme Court justice who will validate his illegitimate seizure of total power after he loses the election next month. Again, this is how dictators become dictators.

Trump is a national emergency. It is most terrifyingly a national emergency because of the millions of people that Donald Trump has persuaded to believe his constant lies and slander of both individuals and institutions. They believe his fantastic lies of future prosperity that is receding in the distance, his announcement that we have “turned the corner” on the pandemic as thousands more die and hospitals are swamped. Trump’s mesmerized followers believe his magical cures for a deadly disease and relief from complexity that is part of the modern world. They believe his deranged lies about building a 4th century wall in the middle of the Sonoran Desert to keep out desperate, unarmed people with babies who are refugees from political violence.

How can you defend and vote for a man who steals 545 children from their parents, leaving them as orphans without identity in a strange world they do not understand in which there is no one to care for them, then sends the parents back to certain death with no way to recover their children even if they survive? It is a hideous crime against these children, whose lives he has destroyed, whose families he has destroyed, a crime against the American people, and a crime against humanity. It is an unspeakable and unforgivable atrocity. This is a “pro-life”

administration. It is a living lie.

Donald Trump is America's Hitler. He is a monster.

I find it impossible to understand how anybody can support much less vote for this criminal madman who is destroying the United States of America right before our eyes. How deliberately unconscious are you?

Wake up, America! Wake up, Kansas! Will we have a constitutional democracy six months from now or even six weeks from now? Not if you vote for Donald Trump and help him fulfill his plan to Make America A Dictatorship (MAAD) instead of a free society.

The bolded and italicized sentences above were censored by the Salina Journal in the paid advertisement published on October 24, 2020.

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