



# MARS HILL

## VIEW FROM THE HILL

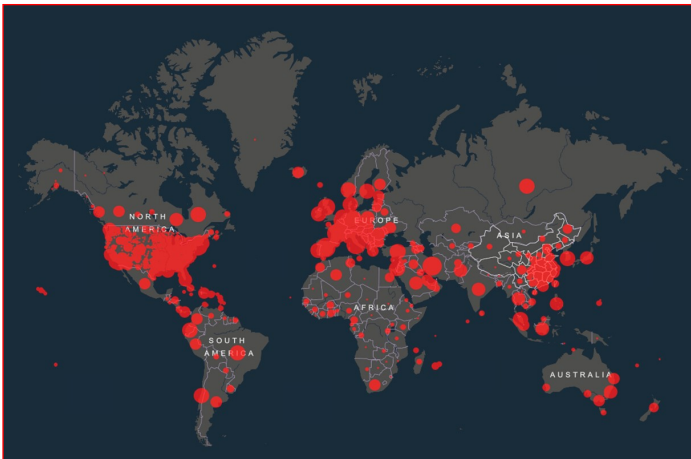
A Devotional Message from Mars Hill / April 7, 2020

## The Pandemic, A Tale of Two Maps

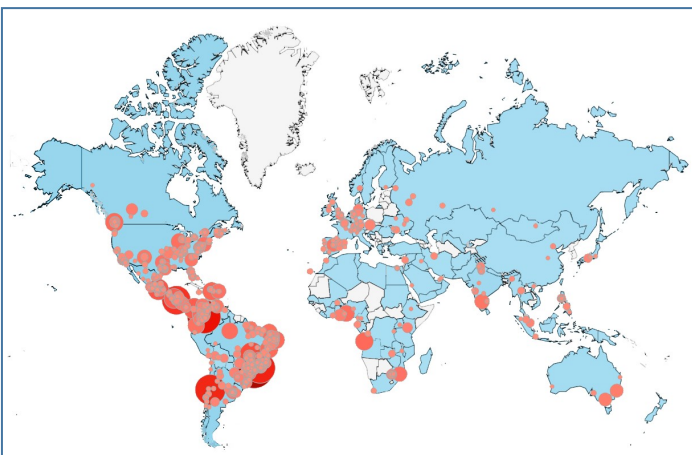
### One Reality, Two Perspectives

by Fred Carpenter

Each map below depicts our world in the past week, (March 20 - April 4.) It is the same world, viewed from two dramatically different perspectives.



**Map # 1** - You may be familiar with this map if you've watched the news in recent weeks. It shows the spread of COVID-19. This image was captured on April 4, 2020.



**Map # 2** - Traffic to our HOPE website is increasing with the spread of COVID-19. This map shows the location of visitors to our site from March 20-April 4. The blue area shows their countries. The red(dish) dots show major cities. In that week 6,245 people from 124 countries visited 11,763 pages on our site, most of their time was spent in our 65-lesson Study Guide.

### A Divine Wake-up Call

Though it may appear the world is out of control (Map #1), it is not. God is in control (Map #2). Trying times like these can be for us, a wake up call, and as such, an act of divine mercy. Jesus promised He will return, and that He will do so when the world is least expecting Him. When that time comes, it will be too late for those who have yet to trust in Jesus and His payment for their sin. For those who have trusted Him in this way, it will be too late to do the things He is calling them to do. Now is the time to get right with God and to do what must be done. Times like these have a way of getting our attention.

### An Unprecedented Opportunity

I have never in my lifetime been through a time like this. As evidenced by the increased traffic to our website, I believe that more people are more interested in eternal things than at any time I can recall. What a time to share the Gospel! And for Christ-followers whose lives are normally too busy for prayerful self-examination and contemplation, this could be your divine "time out." Don't waste it!

### Laying Hold of the Opportunity

Knowing there is an opportunity and seizing it are very different things. May I suggest . . .

- While physical contact with others is discouraged, don't put your ministry on hold; adjust your mindset about how ministry is done. The HOPE website is proof that God has given us technology for such a time as this. Consider the technology venues available to you (i.e. email, social media, video calling etc.), and pray about how you might use these to engage others. Perhaps you could form a prayer/study group via video conferencing. (The HOPE Study Guide is available online for free.)
- This is not about means. It is about motivation. Don't fill the new gaps in your day with the wrong things. Set goals with God, and redeem the time!

May God keep you and bless you that you might be a blessing to others!

For over 40 years, Mars Hill media has been used around the world to introduce hundreds of thousands of people to Jesus Christ. Our current mission emphasis, The HOPE, is an 80-minute motion picture presentation of God's redemptive story as revealed in 36 Biblical events from creation through the promised return of Christ - [www.thehopeproject.com](http://www.thehopeproject.com).